Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-190
Friday
30 September 1994

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-190 *30 September 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

King Husayn, Rabin Meet in al-'Aqabah *[Amman Radio]* 1
More Details Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Rabin Denies Draft Treaty Complete; Talks Continue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Palestinian-Israeli Talks To Resume in Cairo 3 Oct *[MENA]* 1
Crossings Committee Talks Resume *[Jerusalem TV]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Meets With Ministers in New York *[MENA]* 2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 27 Sep 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Welcomes Spanish Aid to Self-Rule Areas *[Madrid EFE]* 4
Commends Jordan's Awqaf Decision *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Awqaf Official Views Jordanian Disengagement *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
PFLP's Habash Views Gaza-Jericho Consequences *[AL-DIYAR 14 Sep]* 6
Fatah Member on Implementation of Accords *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Sep]* 10
Palestinian Intelligence Chief al-Rujub Profiled *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 23 Sep]* 11
'Urayqat: Israel's Choice Between Settlements, Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Al-Husayni: Israel Settlement Expansion 'Bad Sign' *[Jericho VOP]* 14
Israel Seen Creating 'Creeping Facts' in Territories *[AL-QUDS 27 Sep]* 15
PLO Leader Under Treatment at Home in Morocco *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Sep]* ... 15
Palestinians To Set Up Investment Firms in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Minister Meets Moroccan Counterpart at UN *[Algiers Radio]* 16

Egypt

Underground Group Claims Responsibility for Attack *[AFP]* 16
'Security Source' Comments on Lawyers' Arrest *[MENA]* 16
Sentences Passed on al-Shawqiyun Group Members *[MENA]* 17
Awqaf Minister on Mosque Extremism Controls *[AL-MUSAWWAR 23 Sep]* 17
Government Expels Two Sudanese Diplomats *[AFP]* 21
Musa Says Lebanese Track Part of Peace Process *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Musa Meets Iranian, Sudanese Counterparts at UN *[MENA]* 22

Libya

JANA: Clinton Speech Shows 'Unexpected Clarity' 22
Commentary: America Disregards 'Will' of UN *[Tripoli Radio]* 23
JANA Assails Arab 'Submission' to U.S. 24

Sudan

Al-Bashir: Khartoum To 'Liberate' Country From Rebels *[AFP]* 24
Machar's SPLA-United Changes Name to SSIM *[London International]* 25
Further on Name Change *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
Defector: Ugandan Troops Helping Garang Faction *[Omdurman Radio]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Protests Against Arrests Planned at Saudi Embassy *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 28 Sep]* 27
Editorial Justifies Recent Arrests *[AL-JAZIRAH 27 Sep]* 27
Editorial Hails Saudi Handling of Sedition Case *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Sep]* 27
Correction to Interior Ministry Statement on Arrests 28

United Arab Emirates

India Denies Backing Arbitration on Island Dispute *[AFP]* 28

Yemen

Presidential Council Sends Message to Parliament *[Sanaa Radio]* 28

IRAQ

Opposition: MKO Stores Saddam's Chemical Weapons *[IRNA]* 30
Government Orders Kurds Near Kirkuk To Leave *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 30
Press Says Ration Changes 'Precautionary' Measure *[INA]* 30

ISRAEL

Rabin Comments on Golan Bill, Syria, Jordan Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Rabin: Golan Referendum Only After Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Sarid Concurs With View *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
New Likud Plan Proposes Territorial Compromise *[HA'ARETZ 29 Sep]* 32
Almost Half of Likud Voters Back Golan Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
No Compromise in Rabin-Meretz Meeting on SHAS *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Egyptian Tourism Minister Discusses Agreements *[Cairo Radio]* 33
French, Norwegian, Irish Defense Officials Visit *[HA'ARETZ 29 Sep]* 34
French General: No Military Cooperation With Iraq *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Settler Attacked in Gaza; Soldier Wounded in Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Golan Heights Settlers End Hunger Strike *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Kakh's Marzel Released From Jail, Confined *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Police Arrest 5 Members of al-Rujub Security Service *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Commentator Attacks Egyptian Position on NPT *[HA'ARETZ 29 Sep]* 35
Writer Analyzes al-Asad's Policy Toward Israel *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Sep]* 36
Bank of Israel Raises Interest Rates 1.5 Percent *[THE JERUSALEM POST 26 Sep]* 39
Head of Interests Office in Morocco Appointed *['AL HAMISHMAR 23 Sep]* 40

JORDAN

King, Israel's Rabin Hold Meeting in al-'Aqabah *[Amman TV]* 41
Further on Meeting *[Amman TV]* 41
Government 'Differences' Postpone Peace Talks *[AKHIR KHABAR 30 Sep]* 41

Envoy on U.S.-Israeli UN Resolutions Moves *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Sep]* 41
Editorial: No Headway Without Israeli Pullout *[AL-DUSTUR 30 Sep]* 42
U.S.-Jordan Debt Forgiveness Agreement Signed *[Amman Radio]* 42
Minister Confers With U.S. Peace Group *[Amman Radio]* 43
Al-Hasan Meets Arab League Head at UN in New York *[Amman Radio]* 43
Al-Majali Meets Palestinian Official on Awqaf *[Amman Radio]* 43
Tourism Minister Decides Not To Attend Meeting *[Jericho VOP]* 44
King Receives Pakistani National Assembly Speaker *[Amman Radio]* 44
Malaysian Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[Amman TV]* 44
Preventive Measures Taken Against Plague *[PETRA-JNA]* 44

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Answers BBC Listeners' Questions *[Beirut Radio]* 45
SLA Demolishes House Used by 'Terrorists' *[Voice of the South]* 45
Israeli Shelling of Southern Villages Continues *[Beirut Radio]* 46

SYRIA

Participants in Cairo Meeting Said 'Unofficial' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 47
Press Rejects 'Secret' Talks With Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Press Criticizes Israeli Policies on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Factional Fighting Reported for 27-29 Sep 49
Militias Shell Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 49
Heavy-Weapons Fire in Kabul *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Shelling Kills 3 in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 49
250 Militiamen Captured in Konduz *[Kabul Radio]* 49
Militia Said Defeated in Western Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 49
Kabul Mayor Requests Assistance From UN, World *[Kabul Radio]* 49
ICRC Asks Warring Sides Not To Attack Hospitals *[Kabul Radio]* 50

India

Delhi Schools Close; Officials Reassure Investors *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Gujarat Minister: Plague '100% Under Control' *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Ordinance Promulgated To Regulate Cable Television *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Kashmiri Leader Abdullah Escapes Rocket Attack *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Velayati Meets Foreign Leaders at UN in New York 51
Meets Jordan's al-Hasan, Foreign Ministers *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Meets Egyptian, Afghan Counterparts *[IRNA]* 51
Meets Armenian President *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Meets Libyan Counterpart, Tajik President *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Daily on U.S. Allegations Against Nuclear Program *[TEHRAN TIMES 25 Sep]* 52
UN Plan To Send Experts to Tajikistan Praised *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Prospects of Relations With Egypt Assessed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 18 Sep]* 53
Paper Compares Position of King Fahd to Shah's *[IRNA]* 53
Commentary Praises Tehran's Efforts in Afghan Mediation *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Official Says No Direct Japanese Investment *[IRNA]* 54

Pakistan

Spokesman Comments on Butrus-Ghali Report on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Use of Transit Route With Uzbekistan Agreed *[Islamabad International]* 55

Indian 'Agent' Arrested Outside of Karachi Consulate *[NAWA-I-WAQT 29 Sep]* 55
Opposition Rallies Mark Peaceful Protest Day *[THE NEWS 30 Sep]* 55
Armed Forces Receive New Antiaircraft Missiles *[NAWA-I-WAQT 29 Sep]* 56
Bank Reports 'Moderate' Growth in Economy *[DAWN 28 Sep]* 56
Sweden To Provide 1.7 Billion Rupees in 1995 *[Islamabad TV]* 57

Sri Lanka

Senior Officials To Hold Talks With LTTE 13-14 Oct *[Colombo International]* 58
UNGA Informed About Plans To Resolve Ethnic Problem *[Colombo International]* 58

Arab-Israeli Talks

King Husayn, Rabin Meet in al-'Aqabah

JN3009074294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] His Majesty Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a meeting in al-'Aqabah last night to follow up on the developments of the peace process and review the progress of the bilateral negotiations between Jordan and Israel. The meeting came within framework of the July Washington Declaration, which notes the readiness of His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister to hold periodic meetings to review bilateral negotiations and ensure their steady progress.

His Majesty King Husayn and his guest, Mr. Rabin, reviewed the developments of the Middle East peace process. They also reviewed what has been accomplished since the Washington Declaration in bilateral negotiations, the joint agenda, and the sub-agendas on water, the environment, energy, border, and security.

His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister praised the accomplishments that have been realized to date in the field of telecommunications, the opening of the temporary crossing between the two countries in Wadi al-'Arabah, and the decision to open the Shaykh Husayn Bridge crossing on the River Jordan. They were also informed about the progress of the negotiations on water, boundary, and security issues, and with the difficulties facing efforts to reach a settlement of those issues.

His Majesty King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister stressed the need to exert maximum efforts to make additional headway on all articles of the joint agenda and the sub-agendas. They also stressed the need to arrive at agreements on those agendas before incorporating them in a peace treaty, as stipulated by the joint agenda between Jordan and Israel.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to his majesty the king.

More Details Reported

TA3009061594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has returned to Israel after an unannounced summit in al-'Aqabah last night with Jordan's King Husayn. After the meeting at the royal palace in the Red Sea resort, the two issued a communique expressing the hope that a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan will be signed in the near future. But the communique adds that several issues remain to be resolved, including those of water, the border, and security. These will be discussed in bilateral talks scheduled for 10 October.

Participants in last night's meetings told Qol Yisra'el that the al-'Aqabah summit was not linked in any way to next week's meeting to be hosted at the White House by President Clinton between Foreign Minister Peres and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan. These sources said that no dramatic developments should be expected at the Washington meeting.

[A similar report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 30 September notes that "Western diplomats in Amman said that an announcement on an Israeli withdrawal from the territories Jordan is demanding may be made at the White House meeting."]

The crown prince, Jordan's Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, and the Jordanian chief of staff took part in last night's talks. On the Israeli side, chief of staff Ehud Baraq and Elyaqim Rubinstein, who heads the team negotiating with Jordan, joined Prime Minister Rabin. The atmosphere at last night's meeting was described as good.

Rabin Denies Draft Treaty Complete; Talks Continue

TA3009102294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said there was still no completed draft of a peace treaty with Jordan. Rabin said that the discussions would continue after Crown Prince Hasan returned from his trip to the United States. The prime minister was speaking to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz as he arrived at his office in Tel Aviv for a meeting with the Egyptian tourism minister.

Reacting to reports that Israel was going to return territories to Jordan, Rabin said that the two parties were not currently discussing the return of territories but rather attempting to demarcate a mutually acceptable border.

Palestinian-Israeli Talks To Resume in Cairo 3 Oct

NC2909140494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's ambassador and Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, has announced that the Palestinian-Israeli talks will resume in Cairo on Monday [3 October] and will last three days. He said the Palestinian side will be led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority.

In a statement today, the Palestinian ambassador added that the talks will deal with the holding of legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza, the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, and an early transfer of authority in the West Bank to the Palestinian side.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Crossings Committee Talks Resume

TA2909183794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The Israeli and Palestinian sides resumed their talks today at the Rafah border crossing within the framework of the crossings committee. The sides are seeking to complete the talks about the arrangements that will be made after the Palestinian Authority assumes responsibility for administering the two border crossings at the Allenby Bridge and Rafah.

Our correspondent Salim Abu-Jami' reports that the two sides are endeavoring to finalize a draft agreement so that it can be presented to the two sides' leaderships for approval. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, expressed the hope that the two sides will be able to resolve outstanding issues that will be negotiated after an agreement is signed, such as the transit of cars, trucks, and buses.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Meets With Ministers in New York

NC2909165294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—Counselor Tal'at Hamid, press adviser to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, said today that the secretary general has held several meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. He met with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, as Jordan is the current chairman of the Arab League Council.

Hamid said the discussions during the two meetings dealt with ways to coordinate Arab stances on Middle Eastern issues now on the General Assembly agenda.

He added that the Arab group will hold a coordination meeting the day after tomorrow, Saturday, which will be followed by a meeting of the seven-member committee in charge of the Libyan-Western crisis known as Lockerbie. He said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has met with Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir and the foreign ministers of Malta and the Netherlands.

Counselor Hamid added that 'Abd-al-Majid will meet today with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to discuss UN economic sanctions on Iraq and ways to ease them.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 27 Sep

NC2909221094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS

1. Brotherhood Official Discusses 'Plots' Against Muslims
2. Columnist Condemns Confiscation of Muslim Brotherhood Book
3. Islamic Lawyers Group Condemns Arrest of Two Lawyers
4. Education Minister May Be Taken to Court Over Veil Decision
5. Writers Angered by Call for Military Action Against Sudan
6. Shaykh al-Ghazali Dismisses Population Conference Philosophy
7. Writer Praises Syria's Confrontation of Israeli-U.S. Pressure
8. Correctly Performed Female Circumcision Lawful Islamic Practice

BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL DISCUSSES 'PLOTS' AGAINST MUSLIMS

In his regular column on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Leader Mustafa Mashhur discusses, in approximately 1,500 words, "the full cooperation" between Zionism and the Western world against Islam and the Muslims. He first cites Jewish "conspiracies" against Prophet Muhammad and the Islamic message in early Islam and their "major role" in creating communism, which, he says, denied God's existence and spread "corruption" on earth. Mashhur then moves on to what he calls Zionist-Western schemes against Palestine, from the Balfour Declaration in 1917 to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and its expansion into other Arab territory in 1967. In 1973, Mashhur says, "Palestine suffered a major disaster, namely, the Camp David Agreement and the peace-brings-prosperity slogan with which [late Egyptian President Anwar] al-Sadat deceived the people of Egypt. The agreement shackled Egypt and prevented it from fighting the enemy and that rendered the Arab countries together unable to fight the enemy; they were without Egypt." As a result, Mashhur contends, Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor, besieged the Lebanese capital Beirut, kicked the PLO out of Lebanon, brought in Jewish settlers from all over the world, and declared Jerusalem as its capital.

Then, Mashhur claims, the Americans and Jews plotted to ignite a war between Iraq and Iran to destroy the capabilities of the two countries and later to ignite a war between Iraq and Kuwait, which resulted in the West controlling the region's oil and weakening the Arab nation.

The Arab states then began the march toward "capitulation" through the so-called peace process, Mashhur maintains. He suggests the Arab countries, on the instructions of the United States, have been competing with each other to normalize relations with Israel. He refers to the "humiliating handshake" between 'Arafat and Rabin, to Jordan's "speedy steps" toward an agreement with Israel, and to the visits to some Arab countries

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

by Israeli delegations. He also refers to Palestinian police efforts to prevent operations against Israel by the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Mashhur also notes U.S. "pressure" on Syria and Lebanon to conclude separate deals with Israel.

The Muslim Brotherhood official then writes: "Submission and capitulation continue and so do foreign interference in our countries' policies and foreign support for the totalitarian regimes that apply pressure to the Islamic trend. This causes instability and leads to acts of violence. As part of the enemies' war against it, Islam is being blamed for this violence. Well, the policies of our governments are to blame. These incidents are being treated in the wrong way—with security measures and violence. Violence breeds violence. The right solution is not taking shape, that is, removing the real causes of these incidents by unleashing freedom, solving economic crises, and taking other similar measures."

Mashhur blames the Arab and Muslim countries for doing nothing against what he sees as enemy plots. He writes: "We find the Arab and Islamic countries not responding to their peoples' desire to protect the Islamic creed from this spite and these plots; we find resistance and violence. The Arab League holds meetings without coming up with positive resolutions against the plotting and the Islamic Conference Organization meets and issues statements—sometimes strongly worded—but without passing practical resolutions to support the Muslims, who are receiving strong blows from the enemies."

Concluding, Mashhur stresses: "It is a struggle of cultures, not one between strong countries and weak countries. We are sure that the Islamic culture will triumph, because it is original, and because it originates from God, the creator, who wants good for his people." He states: "This plotting must end and the result will be in favor of Islam and Muslims, God willing."

COLUMNIST CONDEMNS CONFISCATION OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD BOOK

A 500-word column by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus on page 12 views two new "crimes," which the regime is said to have perpetrated recently in Egypt. The first, he says, is the "kidnapping" of opposition journalist Mustafa Bakri by state security men and the second "the police raid against the Islamic Publication and Distribution House and the confiscation of a Muslim Brotherhood book." The writer says that in the confiscated book the Muslim Brotherhood group stresses the importance of women getting involved in politics and their right to vote and contest elections. The book also stresses the group's belief in a multiparty system, he says.

'Abd-al-Quddus writes: "I view the book as a major gain for all forces of progress in society. It places the woman in her right and proper place and emphasizes the importance of democracy. Instead of welcoming these enlightened views and spreading them to confront the extremists, the government stood with the extremists in the same trench, confiscating the book only because it is published by the Muslim Brotherhood!" The writer appeals to all Egyptian intellectuals to confront "this crime."

ISLAMIC LAWYERS GROUP CONDEMNS ARREST OF TWO LAWYERS

An unattributed 100-word report on page 7 cites "the Islamic Lawyers Group" as condemning the state security services' raid against the office of detained lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat and the arrest of two lawyers there. The group said the raid is part of the continuing "provocation" against Egyptian lawyers.

EDUCATION MINISTER MAY BE TAKEN TO COURT OVER VEIL DECISION

A 300-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 7 names some schools that reportedly continue to prevent veiled female students from entering. The report says ultimatums given by some parents to force the education minister to abide by the ruling of the High Administrative Court, "which gives female students the right to wear the veil," expire "today." The report cites the parents' lawyer as saying that if the ultimatums are ignored and schools continue to prevent veiled students from entering, then direct lawsuits will be filed against the education minister and some school directors for their failure to obey the court ruling.

WRITERS ANGERED BY CALL FOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SUDAN

AKHBAR AL-YAWM Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah's call on the government to take military action against Sudan draws some angry reactions from AL-SHA'B writers.

In an approximately 3,000-word article on pages 1 and 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn asks whether Sa'dah is speaking for his party, the ruling National Democratic Party, or for "a Zionist lobby over which the government has no control." He says that on the same day Sa'dah made his call, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was telling AL-AHRAM that Egyptian-Sudanese relations must remain good. He also notes President Mubarak's repeated assertions that Egypt will never fight Sudan.

Husayn says that Sa'dah's call shows hidden hatred for Sudan's Islamic experience and for the Sudanese people's right to their Islamic option. Referring to what he views as Egyptian interference in Sudan's domestic affairs and "pressure" by the Egyptian Government to make Sudan change its Islamic orientation, Husayn writes: "We fully understand the state of panic among the forces that are hostile to the Islamic solution in our country, especially as they see Islam strengthening its foundations in Sudan, coming closer to victory in Algeria, and growing throughout the Arab world. They see in the Islamic solution a flood, but peoples see in it a lifeline. This horror should not make them stray into

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

making such destructive proposals at a time when Egypt is suffering suffocating social and economic burdens and problems."

A 1,000-word article by Mahfuz 'Azzam on page 2 and a 1,500-word article by Tal'at Musallam on page 3 also discuss Egyptian-Sudanese relations, urging the Egyptian Government to improve ties with Sudan, leaving the Sudanese to choose the method of government they like and the political orientation they wish.

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI DISMISSES POPULATION CONFERENCE PHILOSOPHY

In his 400-word "This Is Our Religion" column on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) emphasized the need to satisfy sexual instincts away from divine laws and principles. He says the ICPD offered the philosophy of Western promiscuity and stressed departure from heavenly inspiration. "How can they ask us to imitate them? And why should we open our doors to them?" al-Ghazali asks.

WRITER PRAISES SYRIA'S CONFRONTATION OF ISRAELI-U.S. PRESSURE

An 800-word article by Muhammad al-Murshidi on page 8 begins: "Irrespective of the Islamists' reservations over the ruling regime in Syria, any fair researcher cannot but admire President Hafiz al-Asad's steadfastness in the face of the American-Israeli pressure, which seeks to blackmail Syria into a peace agreement with Israel without Israel committing itself to a full withdrawal from the Golan." Suggesting that many Arab countries have yielded to American pressure, the writer addresses Syria, saying: "Patience and steadfastness, o Syria. You have the hearts of the millions of Arabs and Muslims whose dignity was wounded by the humiliating surrender of their rulers."

CORRECTLY PERFORMED FEMALE CIRCUMCISION LEGITIMATE ISLAMIC PRACTICE

A 400-word article by Dr. Sha'ban Isma'il on page 3 discusses female circumcision in light of attempts by some "tendentious" people to "distort the image of Islam and portray it as if it insults women and lowers their status" in society. The writer cites some sayings by Prophet Muhammad before concluding that female circumcision is religiously permitted but that such operations should be done correctly, safely, and in moderation.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Welcomes Spanish Aid to Self-Rule Areas

BR2909133494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0704 GMT 29 Sep 94

["RF/ERO"-signed article: "'Arafat Stresses Importance of Spanish Aid for Future Palestine"]

[Text] Madrid, 29 Sep (EFE)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat welcomed Spanish aid for the Palestinian people and stressed that such aid is now more necessary than ever since it is up to friendly countries whether Palestine becomes an economic "tiger" or another Somalia, "with famine and difficulties."

'Arafat, speaking at a dinner organized by the International Press Club, said that his meeting with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in Madrid had been "warm and positive." He explained he had thanked the prime minister for the aid granted to his people "in many areas," the most recent example being the 50 vehicles for use by the Palestinian police.

The president of the Palestinian National Council [PNC] emphasized the "old and very solid" relationship that he had with Gonzalez and reminded the assembly that the Spanish had helped his people in times of difficulty on many previous occasions. In particular, he mentioned Spain's invitation from Adolfo Suarez at a time when the PLO leader was banned from entering a great many other countries.

However, he avoided mentioning what concrete aid he hopes to receive from Spain, despite the various questions put to him on the subject during the dinner. Mr. 'Arafat simply insisted that the sending of 50 vehicles for the Palestinian police had been the latest donation from the Spanish Government, but not the only one.

'Arafat noted the material aid offered by Spain to enable general elections to be held in the Autonomous Palestinian Administration in November, as agreed by the PNC, but he stressed the great importance of the contributions from all "friendly countries" to the Palestinian rebuilding process.

According to the PLO leader, the Palestinians had managed to "build a democracy in a forest of guns" and his land had the potential to become a kind of Middle Eastern Singapore. For this to be possible, they would need not just fair and total peace but also guarantees of stability, security, and a strong economy.

'Arafat warned that if these things did not materialize, it would have negative consequences for peace in the zone. He stressed how the Israeli occupation had destroyed the whole Palestinian infrastructure and, thus, the autonomous territories must now start again from "less than zero."

He complained about the delays in the supply of economic aid promised by the international community that should reach $720 million in 1994 out of a total of $2.4 billion over five years. He emphasized that it should be clear that responsibility for the Palestinian problem lay with the international community.

'Arafat said that the whole world is "morally and materially" responsible for the Israeli occupation since it resulted from the failure to comply with various UN

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

resolutions. He also criticized the current Israeli Government for "promising much but achieving little."

Among others, he condemned the Israeli Government for failing to keep its promises in areas such as halting the expansion of the settlers, freeing Palestinian political prisoners—there are currently 7,000 of them—and completing the withdrawal of its forces to enable elections to be held under international supervision.

Mr. 'Arafat, who arrived on foot at the hotel where the journalists' dinner was being held, explaining: "I do not need a car in Madrid because I feel I am among my brothers and friends," remained cordial throughout the meeting but lost his smile when questions were asked about disagreements over his policy within the Palestinian population.

He justified the repression of Palestinian extremists by the independent police force by saying that, in his opinion, they were trying to destroy the peace process. He denied that any leaders of the autonomous territories had accused him of concentrating too much power in his own hands.

Where the economy was concerned, 'Arafat stressed the efforts made by his government to develop an independent monetary authority as a first step toward creating a Palestinian central bank and, where international relations with other countries were concerned, he proclaimed his solidarity with "the people of Iraq" and said he was proud to say he was a friend of the Cuban President Fidel Castro.

'Arafat, in Spain to attend the meeting of the IMF, met with Prime Minister Gonzalez and the leader of the United Left, Julio Anguita, when he arrived in Madrid, and will also be meeting with other political leaders.

Commends Jordan's Awqaf Decision

JN2909121994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has voiced satisfaction with the decision adopted by Jordan yesterday [as heard] to sever administrative and legal links with the West Bank's Islamic awqaf [Islamic endowments]. His excellency said this decision is a good initiative by King Husayn. He added that a future agreement on the question of religious places in the holy city is possible.

Awqaf Official Views Jordanian Disengagement

JN2909194494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Interview with Hasan Tahbub, Palestinian Authority "minister of awqaf," by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Mr. Hasan Tahbub, minister of awqaf [religious endowments] in the PNA [Palestinian National Authority]: Two days ago Jordan disengaged from the awqaf departments in the occupied territories, with the exception of Jerusalem. The decision, then, did not imply any Jordanian relinquishment of supervision of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem. How does the PNA view the Jordanian decision?

[Tahbub] We see Jordan's decision to disengage legally and administratively from the awqaf departments in the West Bank as a first step in the right direction. As for excluding Jerusalem from the decision, this will be taken up with the Jordanian Government. There are no differences or tension over the issue.

[Salamah] Jordan's position is that the Declaration of Principles did not provide for the PNA taking control of the awqaf departments and sacred places in Jerusalem, but put off negotiations over Jerusalem for three years after the beginning of the implementation of self-rule. Don't you think that it would have been better to let Jordan keep looking after these places than leaving them under Israel's control?

[Habib] Let me put the record straight. The sacred places are not and never have been under Israel's control...

[Salamah, interrupting] Jordan has been taking care of the sacred places since 1967.

[Tahbub] The Islamic Committee has, since the beginning of the occupation, informed the occupation forces that the Islamic places and Islamic awqaf department are special cases that we will not have anyone interfere with. Afterward, Jordan continued to carry out its duties. This we do not deny and we are thankful for. We hope understanding and harmony between the PNA and Jordan about al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem and all sacred sites in the holy city will continue.

[Salamah] Jordanian officials are emphasizing the need to settle the dispute with the PNA. You are thankful for Jordan's positive role in protecting the Islamic shrines, and yet there is a dispute over who controls these sanctities in Jerusalem.

[Tahbub] In fact, there is no dispute. God willing, we will talk about the subject and reach agreement.

[Salamah] Are any talks planned soon to sort out the issue, or will you seek an arrangement within a broader Arab framework?

[Tahbub] We certainly will not need a broader framework.

[Salamah] Did you agree on a date for talks?

[Tahbub] Contacts and meetings are going on between the PNA representative in Amman and Jordan's Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. Things have not gotten to the point where we can say there is a dispute.

[Salamah] As the minister of awqaf, have you been in touch directly with the Jordanian authorities?

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Tahbub] I am in no position to make such contacts outside the framework of the PNA, which, along with the leadership, makes the decisions. God willing, you will hear good news before long.

[Salamah] That's our hope. Thanks to Dr. Hasan Tahbub, minister of Islamic awqaf in the PNA, for this interview.

[Tahbub] Thank you.

PFLP's Habash Views Gaza-Jericho Consequences

NC2409131494 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 14 Sep 94 p 17

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash by Ghassan Wahbah; place and date not given]

[Text] [Wahbah] How do you view the future of the Palestinian struggle following the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Habash] To answer this question, there are four matters that should be taken into consideration:

First, the wide-ranging changes that the world and the region have undergone. We have to deal with these changes in a responsible, scientific, and effective manner. We should take the necessary steps to ensure that the struggling forces have a profound understanding of the earth-shaking events that occurred in order to confront these events and their consequences.

Second, the existing and inherent potential that our Arab people have. U.S.-Zionist solutions clash with our simplest national rights and interests. These solutions, therefore, will not be the end of the road, but temporary and transient occurrences. Our struggling masses will always be ready to rise up against the existing capitulationist solutions.

Third, the nature of the Zionist-imperialist-racist scheme. This scheme does not seek mere recognition. It aims to bring the region under its political, economic, and military control and keep it backward and subservient to imperialism. It aims to undermine the revival, progress, and unity of our people.

Fourth, our scientific understanding of history. We are confident that nations who struggle for their national rights will win in the end, however harsh their circumstances may seem. We as a people are fighting for a just cause and against a usurping enemy. We will win and defeat the imperialist-Zionist scheme.

Based on the above, the Palestinian struggle will continue. It is true that the Declaration of Principles has complicated our struggle, but it has not abrogated its roots, nor has it throttled the historical, political, economic, social, and psychological drive behind it.

Also, the Declaration of Principles, with the humiliation and acceptance of occupation it involves, is at odds with the great sacrifices our people have made and the long struggle they have been through. The Declaration of Principles is a humiliating and defeatist deal, but this will only make us take our struggle and confrontations to new heights of intensity, grit, and complexity.

All this, of course, forces us to take stock of our past struggle, to learn its lessons, and to examine its drawbacks on various organizational and national levels.

We have to take the appropriate political and organizational steps and move on to a new phase of national struggle. We have to deal with the new developments, the changes that these developments brought to our political and social landscape, the ensuing class conflict, the shifting national alliances, the changed means of political and military struggle and violent uprisings, and how all this ties into the social and democratic dimensions.

Besides, we have to examine the PLO's course, the changes it experienced, and the hollowing out it underwent at the hands of an autocratic leadership. We must reorganize the PLO on a new, vanguard, and democratic basis, but also on the basis of its charter and political program of liberation. We have to create the necessary means for the intifadah to continue. We should firmly confront the occupation. We should escalate our struggle against the occupation, using all available political, martial [kifahiyah], civil [jamahiriyah], and economic means.

We should also link our national struggle with the pan-Arab one. This is a necessary condition for the confrontation to last. We should furnish the necessary prerequisites and mechanism for this link to emerge. We should provide a scientific and methodical answer to the problems and complications that may arise in this context.

The transfer of the center of gravity of the Palestinian national struggle to an area inside the occupied homeland is in the same context. This imposes new political, organizational, and struggle challenges on us. To safeguard the solid unity of our cause and struggle, we must confront the dilemma that this situation provokes in connection with the struggle links among the various Palestinian communities but without disregarding the special character of every one of these communities. Finally, one of our current challenges is to preserve the unity of our democratic forces in an all-encompassing form and to delineate the alliance relationship between them and the pan-Arab and Islamic nationalist forces. This must be carried out by clear programs and organizational and struggle efforts.

[Wahbah] Throughout your political history, you have posed various forms of opposition to Mr. 'Arafat's policies on the Palestinian scene. What guarantees do you have that you will be able to form an effective opposition capable of overthrowing the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement? Is the current composition of the opposition able to undertake this task?

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Habash] Allow me to answer the second part of the question first. In its organization, relations, strategic and tactical coordination, and actual practices, the current makeup of the Palestinian forces who are opposed to the administrative self-rule agreement, namely the "alliance of Palestinian forces," is not the optimum configuration capable of carrying out the confrontation. This is the outcome of the nature of this stage, the major complexities and challenges it has brought, and the major shakeup that recent events have caused to the Palestinian people's conditions and nationalist movement. All this shows that we need some time for matters to settle down and for the shaken Palestinian arena to recover. Another thing is that the opposition forces, who are united over the major political concept or several major political concepts, still have a lot of differences and divergent views about politics, tactics, organizational issues, and controls. Further causes of divergence are intellectual differences and the dissimilar historical experience of each opposition faction. The conditions of the opposition forces take us back to the first part of the question. If conditions are like this, what are we wagering on? Our wager depends on the state of collapse to which the Palestinian leadership has sunk, something we can see and analyze. We also understand and categorically reject the agreements designed to abolish our people's cause. Additionally, we adhere to the firm Palestinian principles that represent our people's national and pan-Arab interests and rights.

The proposed solutions bear the seeds of failure. Eventually, our people will not agree to have their cause, rights, sacrifices, and aspirations reduced to this level of limited self-rule under the bayonets of occupation. Objectively speaking, the Palestinian people will continue the struggle until they attain freedom and complete independence. Although the people's rejection of and opposition to the current U.S.-Zionist solution have not reached the required level, they will eventually be forced to cope with the requirements of confrontation and struggle. The masses' action and rejection of the proposed solution are increasing daily as they realize the nature, goals, and futility of this solution. The rejection and opposition forces will find that they will have to reconsider their points of disagreement and their ineffectiveness. They will find out that they have the potential and the support of the masses to enable them to stand up to the liquidationist plan.

Every group will realize sooner or later that halting the Zionist solution will be practically impossible unless all groups unite on one formula based on a joint program stemming from national and pan-Arab interests. We have learned from past experience that any factional solution is doomed. It concerns me to point out that there is a big difference between the previous forms of opposition in the Palestinian arena when Yasir 'Arafat was still committed to the national program and the current opposition now that 'Arafat has abandoned this program once and for all.

[Wahbah] The military operations are of a political nature rather than effective military action. What is the Palestinian interest in this type of operations?

[Habash] It is not wrong if any military action by a Palestinian or Lebanese group has a political nature. We do all we can to make our operations effective and painful to the enemy. However, the current circumstances, the retreat in Arab political and military support, and the material and technical obstacles placed by Israel and the Arab regimes constitute barriers that cannot be underestimated. Frankly, what is surprising is not our failure in certain military operations against our enemy, usurper of our land and killer of our people, but these regimes that do all they can to protect this fascist, racist, and colonialist entity. Blessed be the fighters who see all these barriers and unfavorable circumstances and still insist on overcoming them to fight the occupiers. This is unmatched heroism. Despite all the loopholes in certain operations, the operations signify a strategic dimension of continued fighting with the enemy every time an opportunity arises. The occupation forces do all they can to stop these operations so that they can say that the situation has been settled and that security and stability have been established. The hurling of a grenade or an attempt to cross a barrier of barbed wire are profound indications that make the occupation forces realize that we will not stop our strikes. If an operation fails today, another will succeed tomorrow.

[Wahbah] The Zionist enemy is using all methods against us at the Palestinian and Arab levels. You were pioneers in dealing painful blows to this entity, but later you stopped and backtracked on this type of struggle (I mean the external operations). You justified it by saying that these operations harm the Palestinian cause. Do you still believe in this and is world public opinion, which has double standards, so important?

[Habash] Our fifth national congress, which was held in February last year, debated this matter and adopted a clear stand in this regard. Our decisions in this regard related to a specific pattern using specific tactics; namely, hijacking planes. This method was used at a certain time and for a limited period to draw the world people's attention to the tragic situation, massacres, and repression experienced by our people. As regards striking at and pursuing the enemy, it is a policy line that still exists for us whenever the opportunities and circumstances permit. The enemy itself is pursuing us everywhere. Hasn't it carried out dozens of operations in European states against cadres and leading figures of the Palestinian revolution? Hasn't it hit the PLO headquarters in Tunis? Doesn't it attack our children and the masses in Lebanon everyday? We are exercising our natural and legitimate right to defend our people, our cause, and our rights, while the enemy is exercising terrorism in a brutal and bloody manner. The world must fully realize this and say it out loud, if it is really fair.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

As for world public opinion, it is a very important and vital factor for us and for our struggle. It is natural and important to benefit from this factor and it is wrong to ignore it. There is a big difference between the European, colonialist, and imperialist regimes and governments, which use double standards and sponsor, support, and do everything to justify and protect the terrorism of the Zionist state on the one hand, and on the other hand the peoples who have their own mind and whose mood is influenced by the distortion used by the imperialist propaganda machine. We must reach these peoples and handle their public opinion with flexibility and intelligence. While the Western imperialist governments take a hostile position toward our people and nation, many forces, institutions, societies, and groups extend their hands of support and solidarity with our struggle out of conviction and faith. Is this a small matter? No. It is important and essential. We must not miss any chance of influencing public opinion. Our enemy is doing the impossible to distort, penetrate, and win over this public opinion to its side. The indifference that is sometimes shown by the world to our national causes is due mainly to the weakness and backwardness in the position of our Arab regimes, which, had they possessed some dignity and a sense of challenge, they would have effectively influenced the position of these peoples.

[Wahbah] The PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] is encouraging its cadres these days to stop working full time and is compensating them. So where is the eagerness to maintain struggle in that? Is it because of financial difficulties or is there a new vision of action?

[Habash] The issue of stopping full time work you are referring to has nothing to do with continued struggle. Struggle will continue whether or not we work full time. Ending full time does not mean terminating the party member's stance or position as a struggler. The policy of full time work was in response to the requirements of a specific stage and specific conditions that existed during the extensive resistance phenomenon. We should not ignore the mistakes and blunders that distorted that policy. They were represented in the overgrown army of full time members who were isolated from social life. That policy resulted in a number of ailments, customs, and values that later obstructed the development of the revolutionary powers. This is a lesson that needs discussion, dialogue, and conclusions and this is what we, the PFLP, are doing now.

As for the reasons, they are numerous. Some are financial and some are linked to our new vision of struggle at the present stage and the types of organization structures it needs to restore the balance between the organization and society. There are also reasons linked to the decline of the public resistance phenomenon and the apparatuses, institutions, and fighters it needed. Finally, the party has to adjust itself more and be more flexible to cope with the difficult future conditions that need a stronger organizational structure that is less vulnerable to hostile and adversary powers.

[Wahbah] There has been talk lately in the Palestinian arena about lists naming PFLP cadres that were submitted to 'Arafat to approve their entry into the self-rule areas. Don't you see that this is a kind of dealing with the entities the self-rule agreement gave rise to?

[Habash] Our stand on the agreement is crystal clear and could not be mixed up. We rejected the Oslo-Cairo agreement part and parcel because it relinquished the national rights and principles. We approved the names the PLO listed as PFLP cadres that work for PLO institutions because returning to the homeland is our comrades' right as well as the legitimate right of each Palestinian citizen, regardless of his political or party affiliation. We will spare no opportunity to return any Palestinian citizen to his land and homeland. However, this absolutely does not mean that we will deal with the Oslo-Cairo agreement and the entities it produced. We refused to participate in the self-rule authority elections slated for autumn. We also refused to participate in the farce of appointing municipal council chiefs and members. Moreover, our prisoners refused to sign the infamous pledge document in return for their release.

Hence, I affirm that some of our comrades' return to their homeland involved no favors from anybody. Everybody knows the extortion 'Arafat's and the occupation authority exercised against our returning comrades. I would like to remind you of the press conference our comrades held in Gaza. They reiterated the PFLP's principled stand that rejects any political concession to 'Arafat's authority.

[Wahbah] Many signs indicate that the Palestinian police's top priority is to end the intifadah. What steps will you take to safeguard and maintain the intifadah, and what would you do if 'Arafat dragged you into a confrontation?

[Habash] When 'Arafat signed the Oslo-Cairo agreement with the Zionist enemy, Israel's first condition, to which 'Arafat acquiesced, was to terminate and liquidate the intifadah and all acts of national struggle against the occupation troops and settlers. Under the agreement, 'Arafat and his police committed themselves to pursuing and detaining any Palestinian struggler who carries out or contemplates any operations against the occupation troops in the self-rule areas. The events of the past four months have revealed the truth about the role given to the self-rule authority to end the intifadah.

Following the deviation by the Oslo-Madrid team led by 'Arafat, the intifadah was shaken as a result of the rift in the overall national position as well as the confusion that the agreement has caused within the ranks of our people inside the territories, who started to realize the truth about 'Arafat's agreement. However, they are determined to continue to engage the Zionist enemy with all means in the self-rule areas and the remaining parts of Palestine. This is a definite proof that our people adhere to the principle of continued struggle against the enemy until our national rights of return, self-determination,

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital are achieved.

As for safeguarding and maintaining the intifadah, the Palestinian masses and the political forces opposed to the Oslo- Cairo agreement will continue to develop the intifadah which, following the departure of the resistance from Beirut, constituted one of the most important acts of struggle on which our masses depended to achieve our inalienable national goals. This requires, first, the need to expose the Oslo-Cairo agreement before the Palestinian and Arab masses. Second, all the forces opposed to the agreement must be regrouped with a view to continuing the intifadah by drafting a comprehensive national confrontation program. This program must define avenues of struggle for the leadership of the intifadah to face future challenges. Toward that end, the opposition forces must live up to their historic responsibility, rise above narrow and factional interests, and not let secondary conflicts prevent the realization of a national renaissance program.

As regards our position concerning any confrontation with 'Arafat's police, we have made it clear that we will not start any confrontation and will try to contain any individual provocation on the part of the police. But if we come under any attack or organized repression, we will respond to it to protect our comrades and our masses, who have suffered much from the brutality and repression of the occupation troops.

[Wahbah] There are reports that 'Arafat has managed to get through to some of your leading cadres. Are these reports true? Is he trying to get through to them, and how are you dealing with these attempts?

[Habash] Governed by his disposition and the nature of his mental and political character, 'Arafat has adopted the principle of containing or fragmenting the Palestinian political powers to guarantee his control over the Palestinian decisionmaking and institutions. This has had a detrimental impact on the Palestinian arena, either at the factional level or at the level of institutions and the masses. He tries to fragment the powers that he fails to contain or adapt to his programs and goals. When he fails to do that, he resorts to all cheap and lowly methods to break these powers and realize his goals.

Faced with a national conflict with those who refuse and confront the Oslo-Cairo agreement, 'Arafat tries to apply the destructive policy from which we suffered a lot in the past through his attempts to win to his side some individual leading cadres. By doing that, he seeks to create confusion in the PFLP ranks and among the masses and followers to show the PFLP as lacking cohesion. But 'Arafat will not succeed in that. This is due primarily to the front's cohesion, its democracy, and the maturity of its leaders. They are well aware that 'Arafat wants to use some individuals temporarily to put pressure on us. But he will soon turn his back and forsake these individuals, leaving them to a fate no better than that faced by those who left the front and imagined that 'Arafat's policy would help achieve the national goals, or even their personal interests and ambitions.

Finally, I would like to point out that the fact that a former leading cadre has joined 'Arafat in the occupied territories due to personal circumstances does not cause us any concern for the front's unity or political position.

[Wahbah] How do you view the future of the Palestinians in Lebanon, especially in view of several recent proposals concerning them? What have you done to prevent implementation of these proposals?

[Habash] We view all the Palestinian people as one social, historical, and human unit despite their dispersion and displacement. Maintaining the unity of the Palestinian people is very important, as it reflects their common fate and future. Nevertheless, we view the Palestinians resident in Lebanon and the special circumstances they have passed through from a particular angle. Our masses in Lebanon have borne a great deal of the burdens of struggle in defense of the Palestinian cause and revolution. These burdens were increased by Lebanon's internal structure and its effects on the political and social presence of the Palestinians. We are aware of the magnitude of the tragedy our masses in Lebanon are living through on all levels, particularly after the signing of the Oslo-Cairo agreement. This agreement has failed to note the right of the people to return, as well as the four million Palestinians living outside the occupied territories—in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and other Arab countries. This exacerbated the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon. 'Arafat has turned his back on the tens of thousands of Palestinian families who were provided social, medical, and educational services by the PLO. What made the tragedy worse is the special laws with which the Lebanese Government treats the Palestinians living in Lebanon, laws that contravene all bonds of brotherhood and human rights.

The current debate in Lebanon over the issue of housing the Palestinian families who were forced out of the Tall al-Za'tar, Jisr al-Basha, and al-Dubayyah camps is a humanitarian issue. It must not be viewed within the framework of the concept of resettling the Palestinians, which we strongly reject, be it in Lebanon, Syria, or Jordan. This concept is considered to be an important part of the Oslo-Cairo agreement and the Madrid conference. Since we reject resettling or eviction of the Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere, we emphasize that the only solution to the refugee problem is implementation of the right to return to the land of Palestine. This right was sanctioned by UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 194. Until we reach this goal, we must find a decent and humanitarian solution to the displaced Palestinian families similar to that of their Lebanese brothers with whom they shared the bitterness of the civil war and paid dearly for it.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Fatah Member on Implementation of Accords

MM3009101194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 3

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Sakhr Habash, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Nizar, by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You have not entered the Palestinian autonomy areas so far. How do you explain that, and why the delay?

[Habash] Actually, I am one of those who contributed to and officially supervised the drive to encourage as many young men as possible to enter Gaza and Jericho. Such entry of PLO cadres was not stipulated in the agreement. I believe that any loophole we can find in the agreement to strengthen the Palestinian people's struggle on the ground constitutes a gain which should not be squandered. But I was surprised that there was some negligence on the part of the National Authority and more plotting by the Zionists with the aim of making the crossing points merely points for the humiliation of people, not trust- and peace-building crossings.

That is why, in my personal and official capacity, I advise every Palestinian official who respects his people not to go to the autonomy areas until the Israel side adheres at least to the provisions of the Oslo agreement on the crossings.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You raise that slogan but you contributed to the drive to encourage as many Palestinians as possible to enter. Why did you, in defense of Palestinian dignity, not advise them against entry?

[Habash] I have not sanctioned insults to Palestinian dignity. The dignity of the cadres, strugglers, and ordinary citizens is part of my own dignity, but when the process began we were inclined to have as many people as possible enter the autonomy areas. Noticeably, a large number of cadres were not ill-treated when they entered, but the Israelis deliberately humiliate the Palestinian officials. Of the symbols and members of the PNA [Palestinian National Authority], only President Yasir 'Arafat broke that barrier, but even he has stated that the Israelis subjected him to all kinds of humiliation and insults every day.

They make a point of ill-treating Palestinian officials. I have even heard from brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], the man who signed the Oslo agreement, that he had to wait two hours at the checkpoint before he could enter the autonomy areas. That means there is something wrong with the implementation of the agreements.

As far as I am concerned, I will enter Gaza and Jericho when these obstacles disappear, when I feel that it is the right time to do so, and when I feel that my entry would be useful and that the Israeli harrassment at the crossings has stopped.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] A year after the Oslo agreement, what are your observations and criticisms of what has been implemented so far?

[Habash] First of all, the Oslo agreement has been completely obliterated through the subsequent agreements. The Cairo agreement was worse than the Oslo agreement and it produced certain results and established many things on the ground. The worst thing about them is that they were not even mentioned in the Oslo agreement, matters relating to the the strugglers who were in Israeli prisons and were exchanged for Israel's Palestinian agents. And it was agreed that those released would be deported to the autonomy areas and would not be allowed to enter the West Bank. We do not want that authority if it is not going to lead to a Palestinian state, and we will continue the struggle because there can be no stability and no security unless the Palestinian revolution's phased target is achieved. That target is the establishment of a Palestinian state declared in the independence document.

With these practices and by denying entry to many strugglers, especially those of the western sector, the Israelis are providing evidence that they do not want real peace, because those strugglers used to fight Israel in the past and Israel should allow them entry in fulfillment of the peace process between the two sides. Otherwise, they would start their struggle again and nobody, not even Yasir 'Arafat himself, would be able to prevent them from doing that because Israel does not want them to participate in the peacemaking.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There are claims at present that the roles of Fatah and the PLO ended with the emergence of the PNA. What is your comment on that?

[Habash] All kinds of things are being said at this stage. The truth is that the PLO Executive Committee's situation is bad because the Oslo agreement caused a rift between independents, objectors, and supporters. The best essential PLO, and especially Fatah, elements are not in the PNA, such as brothers Faruq Qaddumi and Mahmud 'Abbas, even though the two do not have the same views on the Oslo agreement. Abu-Mazin says that if our performance in the implementation process is sound then we would have a Palestinian state. That is his opinion. My view is that "the entire Oslo agreement is untenable and useless," but since it has been signed, I agree with Abu-Mazin that our performance should be good internally and externally.

Furthermore, Fatah should continue its meetings at home and abroad and an internal mobilization and organization committee should be formed to do its work and watch the PNA's performance.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you assess the PNA's performance so far?

[Habash] It is not reassuring, unlike the Palestinian police force, which has established itself on the ground

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

and managed to maintain security and hold several security agreements with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. On the question of the PNA's political performance, so far there are no institutions and no ministries. The excuse is the lack of funds but funds alone do not make institutions, whereas democracy and collective work do.

The most negative point against the PNA's performance is its failure to implement the agreement to the letter, especially in connection with the crossings and economic aid.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In view of the current circumstances, is a new mechanism needed for the implementation of the Oslo agreement?

[Habash] I believe that the Oslo agreement should be torpedoed in practice, in the sense of departing from its provisions and sticking to the positive aspects, just as the Israelis are doing, and insisting that the PLO is the source of the PNA's authority on the basis of the mutual recognition agreement. Furthermore, there should be adherence to and implementation of the agreement's timetable, particularly on the issue of the elections, the specified date for which has passed without Israeli withdrawal. And there should be legislative elections to pave the way for Palestine National Council meetings.

Palestinian Intelligence Chief al-Rujub Profiled

TA2409152694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 23 Sep 94 pp 6, 7, 18

[Unattributed article: "Al-Rujub King of the West Bank"]

[Text] About a year ago still, Jibril al-Rujub's name was noted down in the Shin Bet files on the dangerous terrorists' list. Senior Shin Bet officials have found it difficult to digest the fact that his name was erased from the black list and introduced into the list of the friendly intelligence services with which the Shin Bet maintains working relations.

Since the signing of the Oslo accord, before his arrival in Jericho, al-Rujub, together with his colleague, Muhammad Dahian, the head of the Palestinian Shin Bet in the Gaza Strip, spent many an hour with Major General Amnon Shahaq, the Israeli Shin Bet head, and Jacques Neriya, who served as the prime minister's political adviser. The impression the Israelis got was that it was possible to maintain working relations with him, but on a "respect and suspect" basis still.

When al-Rujub reached the Allenby Bridge on 17 May 1994, he was received by one of the senior Israeli Shin Bet members. The two shook hands warmly, exchanged smiles, and then closed themselves up in a side room for a last coordination talk. This upheaval was also not easy for al-Rujub who had fought against the Israeli occupation since age 16 and, upon returning to the territories, needed to work among his people.

Yasir 'Arafat could not have wished himself an intelligence services head with better talents and with such unreserved loyalty. Al-Rujub is the unquestioned leader of the Palestinian street in the West Bank. His subordinates are the field people of the organization. Through them and thanks to their loyalty he is able to control the street. "I will listen to 'Arafat, but I will obey al-Rujub," one of Fatah's leaders in Nabulus said this week.

Al-Rujub has acquired his status in the territories especially due to the long years he spent in jail and later as an intifadah field leader. He is appreciated particularly for his integrity. "I do not drink, smoke, go to night clubs, nor chase women," he testifies about himself.

Jibril al-Rujub, 42, is tall, balding, and mustached. He loves to wear his uniform and his red beret and is very far from the East Jerusalem PLO "princes" who don suits. He is the hardy and practical type, not a talker, nor a smiler. Any one of his subordinates can contact him directly, without going through clerks or aides.

He was born in 1953, in Dura in the southern Hebron Hills, as a member of one of the village's largest family clans. His father, Mahmud, died three years ago, leaving behind six sons and three daughters from his two wives. Jibril's elder brother, Muhammad, a building contractor, lives in Jordan. His two twin brothers, Yasir and Nayif, 36, are members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Both are graduates of the Marj al-Zuhhur deportees camp. Yasir, a grocer in Dura, was detained three weeks ago by the Israeli Shin Bet on suspicion of belonging to a squad collaborating with wanted 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam members. Nayif is the imam of Dura's mosque.

His brothers from his father's second marriage are still school students. His cousin, 'Abd-al-Hamid, a known collaborator with Israel, left Dura. It is said in Dura that since Jibril's return to the territories, 'Abd-al-Hamid has not set foot in the village.

In 1969, at age 16, al-Rujub got acquainted with Israeli jails for the first time. He was detained for an interrogation on suspicion of aiding a Fatah squad. The detention drew him closer to the organization. He joined a terror squad and took part in 10 terrorist acts, including throwing a hand grenade toward an Israeli vehicle, wounding several passengers. In 1970 he was detained, tried, and given two life sentences.

In jail, despite his young age and relatively low level of education, he turned into one of the outstanding leaders. Very soon he was appointed a member of the prisoners' committee and was one of the leading fighters against collaborators inside and outside jail. Al-Rujub also led strikes and struggles for improvement in jail conditions.

In 1980, he led the hunger strike at Nafha jail and, in 1984, the hunger strike in the Janin jail. He spent a few years in solitary confinement, together with his Nabulus friend, Samih Kan'an. He took advantage of his jail time

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

to complete his education and especially to learn hebrew. In solitary confinement he wrote the book "Cell No. 704" and studied the history of Jewish struggle against the British. He also translated Menahem Begin's book "The Revolt" into Arabic. "One should know the enemy," he said.

In 1985, he was released from jail within the framework of the deal with Ahmad Jibril's organization, but a short while later he was detained for a third time. Later he said that he had undergone harsh interrogations in the Israeli jail but did not cooperate with his interrogators. He launched a 30-day hunger strike, following which, he was released for lack of evidence.

In 1986, al-Rujub was detained for the fourth time and sentenced to a six-month administrative detention. Upon release, he began working in Faysal al-Husayni's Arabic Studies Institute where he met his future wife, Hiba al-Qaluti, who worked in the institute's archives at the time. Al-Husayni viewed him as a competitor and preferred to remove him. Al-Rujub was appointed the administrative manager of the 'ABIR women's monthly. He was no journalist, although he introduced himself as such. His work was a mere cover for his political activity.

Al-Rujub was detained for the fifth time at the beginning of the intifadah and on 13 January 1988 was deported to Lebanon having been suspected of membership in the intifadah leadership. Very soon afterward he reached Tunis and turned into one of 'Arafat's close advisers for territories affairs. "The intifadah dynamo," Fatah people in the West Bank called him. From there, via telephones, facsimile, envoys, and meetings with territories' residents, he commanded the "battalion" and "company" commanders of the intifadah, the middle generation leaders of the territories. Today, most of them work for the Palestinian Shin Bet.

Two months before his expulsion from the territories, he got married. His wife shuttled between Tunis and Israel, but made sure to be in Jerusalem to give birth to their two sons, Rami and Husam. Jibril is called Abu-Rami, named after his eldest son. Hiba, his wife, works as the director of Orient House's archives.

In 1991, al-Rujub wanted to lead the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to new records. He planned to murder Ari'el Sharon and then Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Al-Rujub enlisted Refa'el Avraham of Rishon Leziyyon into the Fatah, paid him $35,000, and entrusted him with the murder mission. Avraham was detained, tried, and imprisoned.

"I am a terrorist. This is what I am, and I took part in committing terrorist actions," he says today. "I was accused of trying to liquidate Sharon through an Israeli middleman. Everything belongs in the past now. I do not regret anything I did. I can only say I did it all for peace," he said in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT on the eve of the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington.

When he arrived in the territories, al-Rujub was accorded a reception in Dura which even 'Arafat was envious of. More than 10,000 of the Hebron Hills residents congregated in the village's soccer field and held a celebration which lasted three days. He was accorded a mass reception in Jericho too.

Two weeks after arriving in Israel, al-Rujub opened his mouth: He delivered vehement speeches against collaborators, sent the settlers to hell, and spoke in favor of armed struggle. In reaction, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin decided to restrict his exit from the Jericho area, but a few days after the restriction order was issued al-Rujub tried to sneak out of Jericho in the middle of the night. Border policemen instructed him to return to the autonomy area.

Still, counterpressures applied on the government, some of which were from the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, had the upper hand, and the restriction was withdrawn.

For al-Rujub little Jericho turned into the headquarters of Palestinian Shin Bet's activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Detainees from all parts of the West Bank are brought to his command, located opposite the Palestinian Army command's building in Jericho, formerly the Israeli military administration's building. It is to there that the reports from Qalqilyah, Hebron, or Tulkarm flow. It is there that the archives are located, and it is from there that instructions emanate to the field officers stationed in every West Bank location.

Today there is hardly any West Bank institute's activity or prominent event which do not bear al-Rujub's finger prints. When a conflict breaks out in a certain village, it is enough to mention his name to calm people down.

That was the case in the Bayt 'Awla village in the Hebron Hills last week, for instance. A clash between two family clans, accompanied by shooting, ended after some of the villagers called al-Rujub, and the latter, with a few magic words, calmed the quarreling sides down. Two weeks ago, when a conflict erupted between two clans in Si'ir, al-Rujub's people came to the village and imposed a curfew in order to calm people down.

Al-Rujub does not restrict his position as head of the West Bank Palestinian Shin Bet (officially known as "preventive security") to handling security issues only. He extends it to any sphere which, in his opinion, constitutes a risk to Palestinian rule and society. His people also handle sharp disagreements between cab drivers, traffic accidents, and strong conflicts between husbands and wives or between opponent clans. He also handles thieves, drug addicts or dealers, and pimps. Likewise, those who commit immoral offenses in the family circle, such as Samih Samarah, the Palestinian radio person who was kidnaped from Jerusalem to Jericho, are handled by al-Rujub's men too.

It is said in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] that the man "simply sticks his nose too deep into affairs which are

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

not related to his work at all. He is the type of person who allows himself too much liberty to do as he pleases. He should be put in his place."

Samarah's kidnapping to Jericho from his room in the American Colony Hotel infuriated Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who is struggling to remove all Palestinian government symbols from Jerusalem. Shahal threatened to detain al-Rujub if he went to Jerusalem and wanted to summon him for interrogation.

Shahal was fuming, but the Shin Bet rushed to cool him down. Al- Rujub, incidentally, knows he has the backing of the Israeli Shin Bet. He returns to his home in the Bayt Hanina neighborhood in Jerusalem every day, and he does not sneak in either—he travels in a well-guarded posh Mercedes. He got the car as a present from a building contractor, one of the Hebron Hills' rich, upon his arrival in Jericho.

"Samarah was not abducted," he asserted vehemently this week. "After all, if I want to arrest him or bring him in for questioning all I have to do is pick up the phone and he'll turn up at my office. If Shahal wants to summon me for an interrogation, no problem, let him go through the military liaison committee we set up as part of our agreement. However, I will not become a scapegoat for the problems between the Israeli Shin Bet and the Israeli police."

The argument within the Israeli defense establishment regarding the activity of the Palestinian security services in the territories and East Jerusalem erupted a few days after al-Rujub arrived in Jericho. The army and police suddenly discovered that the Palestinian security service was deployed and operating throughout the entire West Bank. It transpired that al-Rujub and his men had coordinated their activity in the West Bank with the Israeli Shin Bet even before they arrived in the territories. The Shin Bet kept the army and the police informed on developments to a certain extent, but asked them to "turn a blind eye" and refrain from intervening in the activity of al-Rujub and his men.

Officers at the IDF's Central Command were not happy about this. Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, says this has intensified the problem posed by the West Bank's double administration or what he calls its "dual sovereignty."

Biran asserts that the blind eye policy at roadblocks, the duplication of documents, the nonenforcement of vehicular regulations, and the entrance of al-Rujub's men into the territories all create negative precedents. "Small concessions now mean great damage in the future," Biran constantly warns in arguments with Shin Bet officials, claiming that Israel is being overly understanding and forgiving toward al-Rujub.

Nevertheless, the IDF is also careful to maintain channels of communication with al-Rujub. Officers at the Central Command explain that such contacts are necessary since al-Rujub is the local strongman. "If anything critical happens, we are going to need his help," the officers say.

The Israeli police subscribe to Biran's line of reasoning. They are furious that al-Rujub and his men interfere with police work, and even in the investigation of road accidents. When only the territories are involved, the police are prepared to swallow their pride, but when it comes to East Jerusalem, Shahal will not give in. That is why the arrest of Samarah's three kidnappers, who work for al-Rujub, was not coordinated with the Shin Bet and the police were put solely in charge of their interrogation.

Al-Rujub, who is famous for his loyalty to his men, will not accept the arrest of three of his men in Jerusalem as well as another seven from the Bethlehem area. "The arrest of my men is tantamount to a declaration of war on the Palestinian peace camp," al-Rujub said. "These arrests could exacerbate tensions in the field."

Being familiar with the Israeli rules of the game, al-Rujub is skilled at exploiting the gray areas between the different security bodies. He did not hesitate to launch an attack on Shahal using very blunt language ("liar, idiot, primitive"), as well as personal insults which are not acceptable in diplomatic jargon.

When al-Rujub speaks about Major General Biran, he makes disparaging remarks about the general's mother and sister. He has called Rabin "a maniac" on several occasions. He treats the border policemen with overt scorn and demonstrates a similar attitude toward the IDF officers on the liaison committee. One of these officers recounted that during a late-night argument with al- Rujub, the Palestinian official roundly cursed them out. Then, al- Rujub made a show of taking a little phone book out of his pocket and using his cellular phone to call Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq at home to request the latter's intervention.

On one occasion, less than two weeks ago, when two of his men were detained for several hours at the Vered Yeriho roadblock, al-Rujub arrived at the scene and threatened the Israeli officers that if his men were not released immediately he would close off Jericho's main street.

Al-Rujub proved to be as good as his word. Within a short time, hundreds of residents of the 'Iqbat Jabir refugee camp blocked Route 90, the main road traversing Jericho, and set tires on fire. Their representatives handed the Israeli liaison officers a letter protesting the arrest of the two al-Rujub men.

The Central Command commander decided to retaliate in an unconventional manner. He imposed a closure on the town of Jericho. Biran sought an excuse to signal to al-Rujub that he had to rein in his proteges, the released prisoners, who posed a security threat along the main road.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

After his people were arrested in Jerusalem, al-Rujub called his colleagues in the Israeli Shin Bet and asked them to intervene. Shahal remained adamant. It ultimately took the prime minister himself to work out a compromise. "The Palestinian and Israeli security services cooperate in the areas outside the autonomy," Rabin said.

"I need to see the official text of Rabin's statements before I can comment," al-Rujub said, being diplomatically evasive. "Besides, the Palestinian preventive security service only operates in Jericho. In the West Bank and Jerusalem, all activity is carried out by Fatah members, and they operate all around the world. Fatah reached the agreement with Israel, and its activities are legitimate."

In his office at the headquarters of the Palestinian security service in Jericho, al-Rujub sits behind a large desk. His guests sit on low couches, and he looks down on them. He exudes supreme self-confidence. When speaking off camera, he seasons his remarks with colorful street slang.

One of Jericho's older residents says that "people are terrified of him, but he plays the good guy. He does not do the dirty work himself. He can stroll down the street smiling and waving, but a minute later his men can come to carry out an arrest or interrogate someone."

In Ramallah, people said this week that "al-Rujub puts on a big show, but you have to be careful because he is a dangerous and scary man." In Hebron, on the other hand, residents scoffed: "He is nothing but a villager who occasionally must be put in his place."

This week even officials at Orient House admitted that al-Rujub is the strong man in the territories. "With one word, al-Rujub can send thousands of people to demonstrate on the street. The Palestinian public loves him and also fears his power. He is very close to 'Arafat, and, if Shahal takes any steps against al-Rujub, such as arrest or interrogation, he will find himself in trouble with 'Arafat and facing riots in the streets."

'Urayqat: Israel's Choice Between Settlements, Peace

TA2909174794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the chairman of the Palestinian election commission, says the Palestinians will raise the question of expanding construction of the settlement of Alfey Menashe at the Israel-PLO peace talks in Cairo next week. Talking to reporter Mark Weiss, 'Urayqat called on the Israeli Government and public to make the choice between settlements and peace.

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] I think it's wrong. I think the Israeli Government and the Israeli public must realize that in the end it's going to be either peace or settlements. They know very well that we have entered into an agreement, they know very well that the choice must be made. When they started their policy of settlements it was a different world. Today we are living in a different world totally than that of the settlements era. And, I think it's wrong and I think it will just add more obstacles to a very difficult task ahead of us.

[Weiss] Do you intend to raise the issue of Alfey Menashe at the Cairo talks?

['Urayqat] We always raise the issue of settlements in any of our sessions of negotiations. And, we hope, that the Israeli public and the Israeli Government will realize that in order to facilitate for future peace, genuine peace—not only between Palestinians and Israelis but I'm talking about the whole region, the Middle East as a whole—I think the Israeli Government must courageously put it to the Israeli public. At one point the choice has to be made: settlements or peace.

[Weiss] Will there be any attempt on the Palestinian part to link the issue of housing in Alfey Menashe to progress in the peace talks on other issues, such as the elections?

['Urayqat] In one way or another everything is linked to each other. It's a very sensitive peace process that we're going through, it's a very fragile situation. I think any step taken unilaterally from the Israeli Government as far as settlement is concerned would really put more obstacles in the way of our efforts to progress toward lasting and comprehensive peace. I am saying this simply because you cannot isolate any of the Israeli actions as far as settlements are concerned from our efforts to conduct elections or to progress toward the final stage of negotiations. [end recording]

Al-Husayni: Israel Settlement Expansion 'Bad Sign'

JN2909185194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, said today that the Rabin government's policy of continuing to build settlements, hampering the holding of legislative elections, and delaying the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Palestinian cities and villages is a bad sign and will sabotage the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Al-Husayni said this to the Voice of Palestine:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] From the start of the peace process, we have been noticing Israeli violations of the agreement, including the expansion of settlements. We have discussed this issue with the Israelis more than once, and also with the United States and the Russians, telling them that there are violations. Israel used to always reply that there were no violations.

Now, it seems they admit and announce these violations. This is a very bad sign. It means that the Israelis intentionally want to sabotage the peace process. [end recording]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Israel Seen Creating 'Creeping Facts' in Territories

TA2909170894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Sep 94 p 13

[Editorial: "This Policy Is Harmful to Peace"]

[Text] At a time when observers have noted the achievement of some progress during the Palestinian-Israeli summit held two days ago at the Erez checkpoint, reports speak of the tendency to consolidate Jewish settlements in a number of locations, particularly around Jerusalem and Qalqilyah. Israeli sources have confirmed that the ban on building activity in the Alfey Menashe settlement near Qalqilyah has been lifted. Those sources did not rule out the possibility that the ban on construction in and expansion of other settlements might also be lifted.

These developments are casting a shadow on the relative optimism that seemed to emanate from the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Erez checkpoint, because no success in the peace process can be gauged by limited progress in one section or axis. Basically, this matter is related to an overall settlement, whether in the current interim stage, or the final stage, concerning which talks are to begin in 1996.

Settlement activity and the final status of Jerusalem were among the outstanding issues discussions on which were postponed until the final settlement talks. Therefore, the assumption is that the situation will remain frozen as it was when the interim agreement was signed, namely that the Israeli side will not try to create housing or demographic fait accomplis over all the territory that Israel occupied in 1967, especially in Jerusalem, which has an extremely sensitive status for the Palestinians, in particular, and the Arab and Islamic world, in general.

What has happened on the ground, however, is inconsistent with the requirements of a settlement. Israel has implemented and continues to implement numerous settlement projects in a bid to enhance its negotiating position. It is doing so in a way that presents the Palestinians with faits accomplis that will be difficult or impossible to change within the framework of a final settlement. The most recent of these is lifting the ban on construction activity, which was imposed when the present Israeli Government took power in 1992. This new step might include a list of an unlimited number of settlements that would be allowed to expand their buildings and installations at the expense of neighboring Arab lands.

Undoubtedly, even if on the surface the policy of racing against time—which the Israeli side is pursuing with regard to settlement activity in certain areas—were to achieve some temporary gains for Israel from the territorial aspect, it will not help to enhance the concept of a just peace that the Palestinians, Arabs, and international community, in general, aspire to. This concept will not be realized unless Israel takes into account legitimate Palestinian interests and abandons selfishness and its relentless activity to create creeping facts in the occupied Palestinian territories.

PLO Leader Under Treatment at Home in Morocco

MM2909112094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Nasir al-Hasan, son of Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan (Abu-al-Sa'id), has confirmed that doctors have had to amputate his father's right leg after the spread of cancer in it. He denied that his father had lost both legs because of diabetes.

He added that his father returned to Morocco, where he has been living with his family, on 20 September and not the day before yesterday, as claimed by news agencies, and that his health is now better and he is receiving treatment at home.

Palestinians To Set Up Investment Firms in Territories

TA2809185894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] A group of wealthy Palestinians say they are establishing three separate companies for investing in the territories. Mahir al-Masri, vice-chairman of the Palestinian Development and Investment Company, says the three companies would invest in tourism, housing, and industrial development. Plans call for the company to invest over $60 million in the West Bank and Gaza.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has welcomed Jordan's decision to give Palestinians control of religious affairs in the West Bank. He termed it a good step. 'Arafat played down a decision by Jordan to refuse to turn over control of Muslim holy places in East Jerusalem to the Palestinian Authority. Yesterday, Jordan's cabinet decided to grant the PLO control over religious affairs in the West Bank.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Algeria

Foreign Minister Meets Moroccan Counterpart at UN

LD3009095494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Excerpt] On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's current session in New York, Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri had talks last night with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, at the UN headquarters. During this meeting, which was proposed by the Moroccan side, the state of bilateral relations was discussed. Reference was also made to the activities of the Arab Maghreb Union. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Underground Group Claims Responsibility for Attack

NC3009095994 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 30 (AFP)—The Muslim fundamentalist underground group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah on Friday claimed a deadly attack in the Red Sea resort of al-Ghardaqah and renewed its warning for tourists to stay out of Egypt.

The attack in which two Egyptians and a German tourist were killed on Tuesday was carried out by "the battalions of the martyr Tal'at Yasin Hammam," the al-Jama'ah military chief who was killed in April, it said.

The assailants had "returned safely to base," al-Jama'ah said in a hand-written statement sent to AFP.

Al-Jama'ah, which has claimed most attacks on tourists in Egypt, "reiterates its warning against foreigners, especially tourists, not to come to Egypt in the immediate future."

The group also threatened Egyptians who associate or deal with foreigners.

It was the first such attack in al-Ghardaqah, with most of the other attacks on foreigners taking place either in southern Egypt or Cairo. Police have detained hundreds of people for questioning after the latest strike.

The attack marked "the opening of a new front against the Egyptian regime," al-Jama'ah said, warning it could also operate on "other new fronts" and that nowhere would be safe.

"By visiting Egypt, tourists are strengthening the regime," the group said, referring to the vital foreign income which the country earned from the tourism sector before Islamic militants turned their guns on foreigners.

Islamic militants, spearheaded by the al-Jama'ah, have waged a campaign of violence against the government since April 1992 that has killed around 450 people, including 10 foreigners.

Police reinforcements were sent Wednesday to the al-Ghardaqah region, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Cairo.

A gunman opened fire on the town's busy Al-Dahhar market the previous night, killing the three as well as wounding another German tourist and the mother of one of the Egyptians who died.

'Security Source' Comments on Lawyers' Arrest

NC2709145494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has dismissed a statement issued yesterday, Monday, by the so-called "Islamic lawyers group" of the Bar Association with the headline: The Islamic lawyers office has been stormed and closed down and two lawyers, Ibrahim Nasr Ahmad 'Ali and Husayn Jabir Muhammad, have been arrested

Commenting on the statement, the responsible security source affirmed that acting on a warrant from the Higher State Security Prosecution, the aforementioned lawyers were arrested on 18 September.

The source said lawyer Ibrahim Nasr Ahmad 'Ali's office at 45 'Abd-al-Khaliq Tharwat Street was searched with the knowledge of one of the officials at the Higher State Security prosecution. Information had been received that the lawyer used his office as a liaison center with al-Jihad Organization leaders abroad and used it to run the organization's movement inside the country, to convey instructions from the organization leaders in and outside jails, to receive funds from abroad to arrange [words indistinct] to spend on the organization in the country and provide financial assistance to the jailed members.

As regards the second lawyer, Husayn Jabir Muhammad, who worked in the office of the detained lawyer Muhammad Muntasir al-Zayyat, the security source said he (?played) a major role in this plot. The al-Jihad Organization leaders abroad used his residence in al-Jizah as headquarters to communicate with the organization officials inside the country to inform them of the organization's (?instructions).

The security source said the Higher State Security Prosecution opened an investigation with the two lawyers on 19 September concerning case No. 855/94, the jurisdiction of the higher state security, and ordered a 15-day remand for them pending the investigation.

The source affirmed that the arrest was made according to legitimacy and law and under the supervision of the prosecution office concerned because the two lawyers committed acts punishable by law which compromise

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

the country's stability. The source noted that this confirms the lies and allegations of the Islamic lawyers group members contained in their statement.

Sentences Passed on al-Shawqiyun Group Members

NC2909132294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1136 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court-Emergency, sitting in Cairo today, sentenced Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali Saman, Muhammad al-Sayyid Hijazi, and Ahmad Isma'il Abu-Nar to seven years imprisonment at hard labor and ordered them to pay a 1,000-pound fine each. The sentences were passed in a session concerning al-Shawqiyun Organization which comprises 33 terrorists.

The court also sentenced defendant Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahab 'Abd- al-Rahman to five years in prison at hard labor, Fathi 'Abd-al-Badi' al-Sayyid to five years imprisonment at hard labor and an additional three years imprisonment, and Khalid Sa'id Mahmud 'Ali and 'Ali Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al to three years imprisonment.

The court also sentenced Muhammad 'Abbud al-Shaykh and 'Abd-al- Baqi Abu Sari' Hafiz to one year imprisonment with labor.

The court acquitted Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bishawi, Mustafa Anas Milad, Amjad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Hafiz, Mahmud Abu-al-Fath, 'Id 'Abd-al-Sami' al-Dasuqi, 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad 'Ibadah, and Muhammad Hashim Zahrah.

The acquittal order also covered Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Ibrahim, 'Isam Muhammad 'Abdallah, al-Sayyid al-Tuhami al-Sayyid, Majdi Muhammad al-Sayyid, Samir 'Abd-al-Ghani al-Fakhrani, Ayman Hasan Sulayman, 'Abd-al-Latif Muhammad Ahmad Shahin, and Salah-al-Din Muhammad Hasan Hijazi.

The court also acquitted Majdi Muhammad Khalil Hasan, Jalal Muhammad Isma'il, Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Abbas, Salih Fu'ad Hafiz, Mustafa 'Abbas 'Abd-al-Rahman, Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghani, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Majid Diyab, and Mustafa Kamil Ibrahim.

The court said in its verdict it has been proven that the first defendant, Ahmad Saman, set up an organization with two wings—military and civilian—and that he sought to enlist 14 defendants but the court had no evidence that they joined the organization.

The court added that defendant Muhammad al-Sayyid Hijazi also set up an organization in collaboration with defendant Ahmad Isma'il Abu-Nar and tried to enlist 12 other defendants but there was no evidence that they joined the organization.

The court said that the defendants in this case were convicted according to their proven crimes, including the seizure of papers and documents belonging to the armed forces, using blank papers bearing armed forces stamps, and possession of unlicensed weapons and ammunition.

Awqaf Minister on Mosque Extremism Controls

NC2709095594 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 23 Sep 94 pp 40-42, 80

[Interview with Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub by Hamdi Rizq; place and date not given]

[Text] [Rizq] How many mosques are there in Egypt now?

[Mahjub] According to the last accurate count made three years ago, the number of mosques has reached 70,000, including private and government-run mosques and the zawaya [small private mosques built under buildings].

[Rizq] What about the zawaya?

[Mahjub] There are 10,000 of them in Egypt.

[Rizq] Of the 70,000 mosques, how many are private?

[Mahjub] At the time of the count there were 45,000 mosques, but in the past three years we annexed 25,000 of them [to the ministry].

[Rizq] How much did it cost to annex the 25,000 mosques?

[Mahjub] It cost 250 million pounds and was part of a plan to annex all mosques and zawaya in every hamlet, village, and city. The plan sets the end of 1995 as the target date for all 70,000 mosques to come under state control and full supervision of the Awqaf Ministry. Under the plan, approximately 10,000 private mosques are to be annexed annually.

[Rizq] How many mosques remain outside the control of the ministry?

[Mahjub] There are 35,000 mosques outside the ministry's control, but this does not mean the ministry does not keep an eye on them. What I mean is that they have not yet been annexed.

[Rizq] This figure is quite high. You mentioned before that 5 percent of the mosques are not only outside the ministry's effective control, but are also under the control of extremists. Isn't this a real threat and a time bomb that is about to explode? Do we have to wait until the end of 1995? Isn't this date too far away for such a serious situation?

[Mahjub] We don't think it is serious. A large of number of these mosques, approximately 25,000, are now supervised by the state through the use of cooperative preachers. A reasonable percentage of these mosques are controlled by the Al-Jam'iyah Al-Shar'iyah and moderate societies such as the Ansar al-Sunnah Society.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

There are other mosques that are not controlled by anyone, but instead have strong administrations that supervise and run them. I admit, however, that a small percentage still remain under the control of extremists.

[Rizq] How many mosques are controlled by extremists?

[Mahjub] As I told you, 5 percent of the 35,000 mosques outside the ministry's control are in the hands of extremists.

[Rizq] And how much will the annexation plan cost?

[Mahjub] Three hundred million pounds.

[Rizq] Where are the extremists' mosques located?

[Mahjub] In the triangle of Asyut, al-Minya, and Suhaj. Some are also located in Bany Suwayf. For your information, the annexation plan started there. Let me tell you that 70 percent of the mosques in the three governorates have already been annexed.

[Rizq] What about the al-Rahmah mosques in Asyut and Mallawi?

[Mahjub] They have been annexed and are now under the ministry's supervision.

[Rizq] Is it true that control sometimes eases due to security pressures, in response to discontent in the streets, or when the mosques return to the hands of extremists as a result of oversights by the administrations appointed to run these mosques?

[Mahjub] This never happens. Full administration is retained by the state. The mosques are opened and closed at specific times, the employees guard them, and their preachers lead the prayers.

[Rizq] I sense from your remarks that you feel at ease with the Muslim Brotherhood and that there is freedom of movement for their society, Al-Jam'iyah Al-Shar'iayh. Don't you fear them?

[Mahjub] First of all, Al-Jam'iyah Al-Shar'iyah does not represent all the Brotherhood. To be fair, I repeat that Al- Jam'iyah Al-Shar'iyah is not entirely a Brotherhood outfit.

[Rizq] What is it then?

[Mahjub] It includes some people who are sympathetic or belong to this current, but control remains in the state's hands and we supervise these mosques with them. I included them with us in running and maintaining the mosques. Some of them are even members of the Higher Committee for Religious Enlightenment in each governorate, and they comply with the sermons we supply them.

[Rizq] To avert this danger, what have you prepared for these mosques?

[Mahjub] I postponed the annexation of these mosques temporarily until we complete our control of the extremists' mosques that are not run by anyone. Al-Jam'iyah Al-Shar'iyah and Ansar al- Sunnah are committed to the state's plan in terms of the content of the Friday sermon, technical supervision, and field inspection of preachers at these mosques by the ministry's inspectors.This will continue until the time comes to annex all these mosques.

[Rizq] When?

[Mahjub] At the end of 1995.

[Rizq] Until then, why do you need to cooperate with them if you are aware of their ideas?

[Mahjub] I have to be fair. Not all the preachers and members of the Al-Jam'iyah Al-Shar'iyah are extremists.

[Rizq] Who is watching them?

[Mahjub] The state watches them through its agencies and the ministry monitors them through its inspectors. A report covering any excesses in Egyptian mosques is compiled every week. Don't worry, the mosques are under control.

[Rizq] How many preachers are guilty of infringements and violations every week?

[Mahjub] About 20 preachers. Sometimes fewer than five.

[Rizq] About 20 preachers are guilty of violations. The attack on the education minister over the veil issue came from the mosques and all the furor about the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which the extremists created to serve their own objectives, originated in government and private mosques. How can you explain this?

[Mahjub] I must be fair. We are in a democratic country and free expression is now at its best. Why should I restrict the mosques and leave the press unrestricted? For your own information, the attack against the minister over the veil issue was launched by the press and later in the mosques. And the attack against the ICPD started in the press and in the mosques and includes the government-controlled newspapers. This is a healthy, not a frightening, phenomenon. Everyone is entitled to his opinion in a free and democratic society. But ultimately those who oppose must find people to react to them.

[Rizq] I do not understand the last sentence.

[Mahjub] While some mosques launch attacks, others defend and explain the true opinion of Islam. Some mosques attacked the ICPD but thousands of others defended it. Shall I close the mosques that oppose? The government rejects this; it wants views and opposing views. There is a difference between one opinion and another.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Rizq] A difference between one opinion and another? This is another sentence that needs explanation.

[Mahjub] Yes. When one opinion calls for strikes, demonstrations, mutiny, or supports terrorism and sectarian sedition, then I, as the state, responsible for security and social peace, must tell those who express this opinion that this is not free expression, but sabotage.

[Rizq] And if you maintain that it is sabotage, what do you do?

[Mahjub] When we receive reports and ascertain that a preacher is guilty of violations that harm social peace and security, then we consider that he moved from preaching to political action. He must be removed.

[Rizq] How many preachers have you removed?

[Mahjub] This is a rarity. The preachers are committed. Perhaps two or three preachers have been removed.

[Rizq] Only two or three, despite all these violations, which, in some cases, went as far as to accuse the education minister of blasphemy and of disobeying God's orders.

[Mahjub] I repeat that those who make mistakes are punished.

[Rizq] Who decides the subjects for religious sermons in Egypt?

[Mahjub] Before I move on to this, I would like to say the following: When there are 70,000 mosques in Egypt and only 70 of them are guilty of violations, do we consider these 70 mosques to be the representatives of religious thought in the country? I am asking you as a journalist. Suppose 100 preachers depart from the set policy, is this a phenomenon? The preachers are not required to be on the same level or to offer unified thought. There must be views and opposing views as long as this does not harm social peace and security.

[Rizq] Who decides subjects for religious sermons?

[Mahjub] The side that decides is not the inspector or the Awqaf Ministry. In every governorate, there is a high council for Islamic preaching consisting of the Awqaf Ministry under secretary, the director of mosques, the director of the fatwa [religious ruling] in al-Azhar, and senior ulema, some of them sociologists, like Dr. Fathi 'Amir. They also include Shaykh 'Atiyah Saqr and professors of economy, psychology, philosophy, and other subjects. They draft a quarterly plan, every three months, deciding on the subjects. Each sermon touches on 15 topics covering all affairs, from bread to foreign policy. The imam should be aware of every development. These subjects are supported by Koranic verses, religious proof, and sufficient of the prophet's sayings. The ministry publishes these and distributes them among preachers.

[Rizq] It is said that this committee includes some state security officers.

[Mahjub] Not at all. There is not one security man on the committee. Otherwise the committee would be an intelligence body, which I do not accept for the ministry, the ulema, or the mosques. Perhaps the state security outside—I mean outside the ministry—is assigned to protect mosques; it is the right of every country to protect itself through its control bodies, prepare reports, and put the man in charge of mosques in the general picture. But there is not one security man on the committee or in the ministry in general.

[Rizq] Despite all this, the mosque's civilian preacher remains more popular than the government-appointed preacher.

[Mahjub] In developing societies the people usually support those who attack the state. Half the people are enemies of their rulers even if they are fair. This is some kind of compensation. These preachers satisfy the people's need for criticism. As for the government-appointed or Awqaf preacher, because he is moderate and speaks from the pulpit about the people's concerns and problems from the government's point of view, he is not popular. But most people perform their Friday prayers in the Awqaf mosques.

[Rizq] How many preachers are appointed by the Awqaf Ministry?

[Mahjub] There are 40,000 preachers. Some 20,000 receive salaries and 20,000 receive cash awards for each sermon they deliver.

[Rizq] Who chooses these preachers?

[Mahjub] We are responsible for the appointed preachers. Ad hoc religious committees in the governorates choose these preachers. These committees consist of the director of the al-Azhar Institute, the director of al-Awqaf, and the director of education and social affairs. Supervised by the governor, these committees test these preachers and give them a license to preach. No one ascends to the pulpit unless he carries a license from the ministry. The license is a card from the ministry, which says: So and so is licensed to preach in such and such a mosque. Everything is specific and clear.

[Rizq] Do the security services interfere in the selection of preachers?

[Mahjub] I believe a good conduct certificate is required from anyone who ascends the pulpit. This certificate is issued by the security services. Nothing else is required.

[Rizq] What are the qualifications of a preacher?

[Mahjub] He must have high qualifications and a moderate religious education. He obtains a license only after he is tested by a committee.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Rizq] Is there a great response by people to work as preachers?

[Mahjub] Yes, there is a great response. There are 25,000 [figure as published] preachers who receive cash awards for each sermon they deliver. This is a sign of great response. Some of them have doctorates.

[Rizq] How much is this award?

[Mahjub] Three years ago it was between three and five pounds for each sermon. Nowadays it is a minimum of 15 pounds and rises to 20 pounds to holders of high qualifications.

[Rizq] How many preachers do you need so that you can say that all preachers in Egypt are under control?

[Mahjub] Through 1995 I will need no more. My need is estimated at 15,000, who are right now attending the preachers' preparation centers in the governorates. These centers accept all highly qualified candidates in evening classes over two years. Whoever passes this course joins the caravan of preachers.

[Rizq] Some shaykhs enjoy broad popular support. Huge problems arise when they are dismissed. At the same time, allowing them to continue to preach entails some risk, especially as some of them have extremist ideas and tendencies and threaten social peace and security. How can you solve this problem?

[Mahjub] We have reconciled ourselves with these preachers, who have been cooperating with us recently. I do not favor the standardization of a sermon. It is not in the interest of the state or the ministry to make all preachers reiterate the same words every week. There are some shaykhs who enjoy popularity. I must preserve their views and give them maximum freedom for free expression within the framework of social peace and state security. But the religious preacher must not become a political preacher.

[Rizq] These are ambiguous words.

[Mahjub] No, these are very specific words. For instance, if a preacher calls for boycotting the Copts, is this not a call for striking at social peace? Such a preacher must not remain in his post. When a preacher slanders the state and government and incites the youth to rebel against the state, is this not incitement to strike at stability. This is what I mean regarding what you described as ambiguous words.

[Rizq] We now ask a very important question. Why did you dismiss Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi? I support his dismissal and I have my reasons. But when the ministry dismissed him, the reason should have been logical and reasonable so that the kind of ferment to which we referred would not occur.

[Mahjub] Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi was not appointed by the Ministry of Awqaf. He was a civilian preacher who was getting paid for his sermons. According to plan, the ministry is reinstating its preachers in its mosques. Because the Asad Bin-al-Furat Mosque is a government mosque, a government imam and preacher had to be appointed to the mosque. It was necessary to dispense with the services of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi.

[Rizq] I do not accept this reason. It is known to us all that the real reason was the man's harsh remarks against the Copts. He was removed by the press, not by the ministry.

[Mahjub] I emphasize that the presence of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi and those like him was due to the shortage of preachers. Now that there are enough, we have decided to make replacements. We started in Cairo, al-Jizah, al-Qalubiyah, and neighboring governorates. 'Abd-al-Kafi was one of them. Let me point out that when 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi made the remarks you mentioned, I sent for him and met him, and he completely denied making them, and that was enough for me.

[Rizq] What about the reports of the security agencies and inspectors?

[Mahjub] The man denied the matter and went to meet with Pope Shanudah, not to apologize, but to explain his position. His dismissal was because of the application of the ministry's plan to fill the deficit of preachers at the government mosques.

[Rizq] What about 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr?

[Mahjub] This is a story that I would like to tell in full. We received reports that he committed many excesses and that he criticized things in a manner to stir sedition within the mosque. I sent for him, talked to him about what he was preaching, and explained to him the position of the ministry and the government. He made me a promise, but later he resumed the criticism and abused the pulpit very badly. I had to go there myself unannounced and pray behind him to get firsthand information to verify the reports we received. After the sermon, which was good, the man promised to comply. I told him: We do not want you to be with the government all the way, but to be fair to the government. I told him that not everything the government does is bad. I gave him a reward and appreciated his work. Later on, he repeated his mistakes and the ministry sent for him, but to no avail. In his last sermon, I personally went there and heard what he said. Had not God been merciful to this country on the day of that sermon, which was about the loaf of bread and the wheat, the youngsters would have taken to the streets in demonstrations that would have destroyed Cairo. I was among the worshipers and I had to secure the mosque and the country. I decided to transfer him to the ministry to spare the country the possible consequences and to protect him from himself.

[Rizq] Leaving extremists aside, how long will the Awqaf Ministry remain indifferent to the extremist books circulating in the Egyptian streets?

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Mahjub] It is not my responsibility to collect these books from the sidewalks. This is the responsibility of the security agencies. The law gave al-Azhar the right to answer these books. My duty is to assist in answering these books through the Islamic Research Council and to print these answers in books, which are now available in the market. We have a series of 15 books called "This Is Islam." They refute all the arguments of the extremists in Egypt, such as the books of Ibn Taymiyah, "Al-Hakimiyah," "Those Delivered From Fire," and "Al-Istihlal." We answer all these arguments with books written by Islamic ulema. There is close cooperation between us and al-Azhar in this regard.

[Rizq] Since you mentioned this close cooperation, it is being said that you sided with the al-Azhar imam against the mufti.

[Mahjub] Absolutely not. I fully respect the two and we have no conflict. I am neither with this or that. We are all in the same boat, and they know it. We may have different points of view, but there is no difference on general policies. I was the first to accompany the mufti on his tours organized by the Ministry of Awqaf. I still harbor full respect and amity for the man, who is an honorable scholar held in high esteem.

[Rizq] What about preaching convoys? How many convoys have been arranged to preach in the governorates?

[Mahjub] No less than 300.

[Rizq] They say these are show convoys that have not touched on the issue of extremism in Upper Egypt.

[Mahjub] Those who say this are not informed; had they attended any of these convoys, they would have changed their minds. Ask those who attended the seminars of those convoys. It would be enough even if all the convoys did was storm extremist thought in its strongholds and present the opposing view. For some time we in Egypt remained hostage to one way of thinking, that of the extremists. But now we are sending convoys to express the moderate view, and where? In Upper Egypt, in public squares, and at universities.

[Rizq] And prisons?

[Mahjub] We also went to prisons: Turah, Abu-Za'bal, and the appeals prisons.

[Rizq] Have you been threatened by any extremist?

[Mahjub] This does not matter. It is God that determines one's life and death, and if one fears other humans, he should not leave his house. If one believes in a just cause, he should courageously fight for it. I do not care about threats.

[Rizq] Why do you have guards around you?

[Mahjub] The guard is God, and He determines when one's life is terminated: "Wherever you are, death will find you out, even if you are in towers built up strong and high." [Koranic verse]. For your information, after the murder of Shaykh al-Dhahabi [former awqaf minister], many preachers were afraid to go out to propagate the Islamic message; they were haunted by the killing. I wanted to go out personally so that every preacher can feel safe. I never thought of death. Those who have zeal for their religion and homeland do not care about their lives.

[Rizq] Why did you refrain from giving your opinion on the veil controversy?

[Mahjub] Who said that? I arranged a conference for the Islamic ulema that was attended by the education minister. I frankly expressed my opinion in the presence of the minister. I said that it was the right of the competent minister and the government to set the regulations they find appropriate for state policy. The state did not prevent the veil. There was a misunderstanding; no official can ban the veil. The minister only wanted to make sure that fathers know that their daughters wear veils. Does this deserve all this clamor?

[Rizq] At this particular conference, the preachers fiercely attacked the minister.

[Mahjub] On the contrary; the campaign against the minister was launched before the conference. After the conference and the meeting with the minister, the picture became completely clear.

[Rizq] What is your personal opinion of the veil issue?

[Mahjub] I said that the veil should neither be forced on people nor rejected by the government. We, as a state, neither reject nor impose the veil. This is my own theory. If we impose the veil, this will mean coercion, and if we reject it, we will be disobeying God's orders.

[Rizq] Finally, I have a very personal question for you. Are you standing aside because of the press attacks against you?

[Mahjub] No, I am not. There is no reason for seclusion. Our plans and activities are continuing and will be intensified in the future.

Government Expels Two Sudanese Diplomats

NC3009100894 Paris AFP in English 0928 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sep 30 (AFP)—Egypt has ordered the expulsion of two Sudanese diplomats on charges of threatening state security, the Sudanese Embassy here said Friday.

The Foreign Ministry told the embassy on Wednesday that adviser Ibrahim Matar and second secretary al-Yassa 'Abd-al-Rahman had to leave the country within five days.

Press attache Salah Ibrahim told AFP that the ministry charged the two diplomats were "threatening the security of the state."

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

According to an authoritative Egyptian source, the decision was taken in retaliation for Sudan's expulsion on Monday of an adviser at Egypt's embassy in Khartoum, Usamah Yasin.

The diplomat was accused of "activities incompatible with his status" and of having made contact with opposition leaders, the source said, declining to be identified.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Sudanese counterpart Husayn Abu-Salih met on Tuesday in New York but without making progress on easing the strains between the two countries, an Egyptian official said.

Egypt and Sudan have traded accusations of supporting each other's opposition groups and of obstructing the work of each other's diplomats.

Relations have been strained since the Islamic-backed military junta took power in Khartoum in 1989 headed by General 'Umar al- Bashir. The two countries are also in dispute over the Red Sea border strip of Hala'ib.

Musa Says Lebanese Track Part of Peace Process

NC3009092494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has revealed that UN Resolution 425 will not be implemented before a settlement is concluded. He said: We should not forget that the settlement and negotiations process is part of the Madrid conference. As to the comprehensive settlement, it is not a question of resolving one issue but of a comprehensive peace. Therefore, the situation is linked and dependent on the other tracks and on the overall peace process.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR, Musa said that Egypt understands the Lebanese situation and Lebanon's desire to implement Resolution 425. He added that he is expecting new developments on the Lebanese track before the end of the year. He said: We are acting within the context of the comprehensive peace. No track will conclude before the others. He added that the situation in south Lebanon is unique and that this does not give Israel the right to attack the south.

The Egyptian foreign minister added that the current deadlock was not preplanned but was the result of some circumstances that have caused the focus to be on the Palestinian track and then on the Syrian one because of their importance, but this does not negate the importance of the Jordanian and Lebanese tracks. He added: The time for these two tracks will come, specifically for the Lebanese track, so that they will proceed in accordance with Resolutions 425 and 242.

Musa Meets Iranian, Sudanese Counterparts at UN

NC3009094994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 30 Sep (MENA)—Early this morning UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali met Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is attending the current UN General Assembly [UNGA] session. They discussed UN peacekeeping operations, with special emphasis on Egypt's participation in UN efforts in the past few years.

An official Egyptian source said the talks also dealt with the situation in Somalia following the Western forces' withdrawal from that country and other issues on the agenda of the 49th UNGA session.

'Amr Musa held a series of meetings yesterday with several foreign ministers who are in New York for the UNGA meeting.

After his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, an official source said the discussions between the two men were frank. They exchanged views on bilateral ties and ways to resolve differences between the two countries.

The source added that Musa set forth his views and observations on recently published statements by Iranian officials.

The Egyptian foreign minister also met Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and they reviewed the Middle East peace process, the regional situation, bilateral ties, and the issues raised at the United Nations.

Musa then met Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih for the second time in as many days. They discussed bilateral ties and exchanged views on improving them. Egypt and Sudan agreed to reassess their negotiations and stay in touch to reach an agreement that will safeguard the two fraternal nations' interests.

Libya

JANA: Clinton Speech Shows 'Unexpected Clarity'

LD2909150694 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih [September] 28 [date as received], JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An atmosphere of disbelief and shock hung over the General Assembly as the American President addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

Analysts remarked that the climate of terror and fear has dominated the delegations members as they were receiving a deluge of expressions of threats and warnings during President Clinton's speech which was characterised by unexpected clarity in contrast to past addressed made by former American Presidents.

The speech was totally devoid of any deviation. The American President's speech was a perfect example of one who does not care about anyone and detailed a programme of action for the American Government,

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

which clearly exposes its policy and rids it of any ambiguities or misinterpretation, however small it is.

He said: 'When the national security interests are threatened we will deal with others if we can and we will act alone if we are obliged to do so. We will use diplomacy if that is possible and we will use power when necessary'.

The American President added: 'The United Nations knows that we shoulder a special responsibility as we are a superpower that progress could be achieved when there is an alliance to enhance diplomacy through military power'.

Such language attracts the legitimacy of clarity for the sincerity of the American President and there are no words or connotations and everything has been made clear.

The bidding will always remain on the path of the nations to know and become aware of this message addressed to them before any others.

America, according to its President, is the unrivaled and undeterred master of the world. Its denials notwithstanding America is assuming the role of the international policeman. This is clearly illustrated by its use of the carrot and stick and domination through dictatorship and power which it created and which have been applied by tyrants and executioners throughout history. The American President's speech to world delegations does not require any further explanations —everyone has been threatened indiscriminately: in his own words he asserted that the orders of the White House have to be complied with: 'By diplomacy or by power'.

Without making a great effort President Clinton revealed that the nations of the world have no option other than to accept America's [word indistinct]. As the President said, this does not need a license of permission for any party to prey on others under the cover of its national interest in defense of its elastic borders, including threats to the rejectionists amd humiliating the followers.

Even at the climax of major conflicts the history of the United Nations did not record a state of terror comparable to that witmessed by the General Assembly on Monday 26th September. State terrorism such as this emanating from the mouth of the American President as he was inaugurating the saga of death while tearing apart the United [words indistinct] death sentence on the [passage indistinct]

Haiti is today teaching the world a lesson. That small and poor state, which has been falsely accused of threatening the security and border of America, the poor boat people are also threatening America's interests.

Yesterday the world was given another lesson by Somalia which has no border with America. Its refugees cannot reach the American [passage indistinct]

That is how the saga of death starts in American foreign policy which has no deterrent other than that coming from the people of the nation. In order to survive it has no other option but to establish a new comprehensive, enlarged popular front to counter the American policy of domination and extermination from which one will be excluded.

Commentary: America Disregards 'Will' of UN

LD2909175094 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs has said that his country retains the right to step up the sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah on its own.

During his testimony before the U.S. Congress last night, he added that America was endeavoring to ensure that the implementation of these sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah would continue.

Thus it is continuously confirmed that the implementation of the unjust sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah was not a resolution of the so-called Security Council or the UN, but was a one hundred percent U.S., NATO, Western resolution, and that the true international UN resolution in this regard has been expressed by the Arab League, the Non-Aligned Movement, the OAU, and the ICO, in addition to China, India, and the Vatican State.

It also confirms that America has completely deprived the so-called Security Council and the UN of their will, transforming them into a branch of the U.S. State Department and subjecting their resolutions to the will of America.

Despite the incomparable Arab and international support from various regional and international institutions and organizations for the position of the Great Jamahiriyah on the artificial crisis between it and the West, and despite the fact that the states of the world have their say one after the other before the UN General Assembly and demand that the sanctions should be lifted from the Great Jamahiriyah, the U.S. Government is once again violating this international support.

This American official comes and makes irresponsible accusations against the Great Jamahiriyah, completely disregarding the will of the United Nations and neglecting all international values, principles and norms and the will of the world's peoples.

It truly confirms that peoples must unite in an organized international front to confront this U.S. recklessness and to resist its haughtiness and tyranny in this world, which as a result of this American arrogance has become a jungle gradually being covered by the American

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

sequence of death which will sweep away all the states of the world in its path one by one.

JANA Assails Arab 'Submission' to U.S.

LD2909143994 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih [September] 29 (JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—Arab diplomatic sources in New York were quoted as saying that the American Government called on Arab delegations at the United Nations not to present any proposals regarding the Palestinian cause or the Arab area to the current session of the UN General Assembly.

The sources said that the American delegation sent a message to this effect to Arab missions in the organisation.

This clearly shows the extent of submission and the confiscation of the independence and will of Arab states, which America has transformed into mere clients of the State Department. They receive their orders and instructions directly from the White House, just as in the not too distant past, they received orders to comply with the American dictate to repeal the UN resolution which equated Zionism with racism.

The American President was also sincere when he spoke to the Arabs using America's language of force and revealed the intention to prey on all.

The significance of the American President's speech is very clear. It prompts us to thank Clinton for his frankness and courage to the extent that any possiblity for other interpretations are excluded and we are left with no other option but to question his words.

With the exception of the Arabs who have not taken a rejectionist position [words indistinct] necessary to salute Egypt's stance and objection to American policy showing us that it is a country we can count on.

Egypt's stance has proved the reality of the historical confrontation between Egypt anb the Israelis. It is a confrontation which should have prompted the Arabs to re-group their forces. This would have shown that the issue of war and peace is being taken seriously—not like the marginalists who are scrambling towards the mirage of peace.

Egypt, which is serious on both war and peace, has done what could never have been achieved by Arab coumtries. Therefore it will [words indistinct] pioneer in the historical confrontation at a time when the others who submit will humiliate themselves, begging for peace. Their reward will be mere humiliation.

Sudan

Al-Bashir: Khartoum To 'Liberate' Country From Rebels

AB3009075594 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 29 (AFP)—The Sudanese Government is to "liberate" from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) all areas of the country still controlled by the rebel force, head of state 'Umar al-Bashir said here Thursday [29 September].

He billed the offensive as part of a two-pronged strategy of fighting and negotiating to end 11 years of civil war.

But the pledge was countered by a dissident SPLA faction, which announced in Nairobi it was changing its name and image as part of a bid to fight for a southern Sudanese state independent of Khartoum's authority.

Official media here quoted Beshir as saying that "the government will adopt a strategy to liberate regions under SPLA control while pursuing efforts to negotiate" with the rebels to end the war in the Christian and animist south.

Al-Bashir said the same strategy had worked in other areas of the country once threatened by the SPLA and now under government control, and where civilians now received food and other aid from authorities.

A number of former rebels had joined the government side to force out the last remaining SPLA units "pillaging civilians' property," al-Bashir said.

The head of state's comments came a day after the formation of an official peace council charged with pursuing settlement talks with SPLA leaders.

The most recent round of bilateral talks ended without progress in Nairobi at the start of September, with the government refusing to cede to SPLA demands for religious autonomy for the south.

Separately Thursday in Nairobi a dissident SPLA faction announced it was changing its name, flag and national emblem in an effort to secure complete independence for southern Sudan.

Commander Simon Mori, spokesman for Riak Machar's SPLA-United faction, said that from September 27 his movement would be known as the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM), and its armed wing as the South Sudan Independence Army (SSIA).

Mori said the objective of the SSIM would be to establish a free and sovereign state of South Sudan.

Following the collapse of Nairobi peace talks, the SSIM and the SSIA had "no option but to pursue the armed struggle".

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

He said the decision was adopted at an SPLA-United convention which ended in southern Sudan on Monday, and which also adopted a new flag, national emblem and logo for its armed wing.

The SPLA took up arms against Khartoum in 1983 to end domination of the Christian and animist south by the Islamic, Arabised north.

SPLA-United broke away in 1993 from mainstream rebel leader John Garang, accusing him of dictatorial leadership.

Further recent rifts in the rebel movement and inter-tribal fighting have enabled the government to recapture a string of garrison towns it had earlier lost to the rebels.

Gains by Khartoum were seen as the major factor that caused the collapse on September 8 of the Nairobi talks, mediated by the regional Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Desertification (IGADD)

Analysts say Khartoum believes that it was about to win the war and does not, therefore, need any further discussions with the now-weakened rebels.

Machar's SPLA-United Changes Name to SSIM

AB2909205994 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 29 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The maneuverings, political ducking and diving, and frequent fighting among rebels in southern Sudan has taken a new turn today. As well as the power struggle that split the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Movement], John Garang and Riak Machar have also disagreed fundamentally over policies such as whether the rebels sought to overthrow the Khartoum Government or whether they were fighting for the independence of southern Sudan. Well, now it has been announced that Riak Machar's SPLA-United has changed its name to the South Sudan Independence Movement, SSIM. Riak Machar's commander, Simon Morey called this afternoon. Robin White asked him what was the point of the name change.

[Begin recording] [Morey] Well, you see, SSIM, that is South Sudan Independence Movement, is suggestive of the objective for the struggle. The struggle is for south Sudan, the liberation of south Sudan.

[White] And you are saying publicly that what you want is the independence of southern Sudan?

[Morey] What we want as a movement is the independence of south Sudan.

[White] Does changing a name change anything in practice?

[Morey] Well, you see, all along we have been saying Sudan Liberation Movement, and it was the thinking of some people that we should liberate the whole Sudan. Now, when you say South Sudan Independence Movement, you're not being vague, you are saying that it is south Sudan for which you are struggling.

[White] But will it move you one inch further to your goal?

[Morey] Well, it will rally our people. This time our people will clearly understand which of the two factions is fighting for the independence of south Sudan and they will line up accordingly.

[White] But since you are losing the war, how will it help?

[Morey] Well, it is a matter of opinion. I don't think we are losing the war.

[White] But if you want an independent south you have to capture it.

[Morey] Well, of course, not necessarily the whole of it. You don't win the war by winning all the battles, but we continue to struggle as we have been struggling for the last....[pauses] now that's the 11th year, and this thing is also biting in the north, by the way. It is as bad as it is in the north, too. Who likes it? We don't like it, northerners don't like it.

[White] But wouldn't you be better off patching up your quarrel with John Garang rather than changing names?

[Morey] Well, we have all the time tried to patch up our quarrel with Dr. John Garang. Recently Commander Riak Machar, the chairman and commander in chief of SSIM and (?SSIA) [South Sudan Independence Army], called on Garang to accept reconciliation. It is up to him now to respond. [end recording]

Further on Name Change

EA3009134594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] The United Faction of the rebel movement, led by Riak Machar, in a statement issued yesterday, announced that it was changing its name to the Movement for the Independence of Southern Sudan, and establishing an army called the Army for the Independence of Southern Sudan. The statement said the faction would have a flag, and that its symbol would be a buffalo. The aim, the statement added, was to create a seccessionist state in southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, Rebel Lam Akol, who broke away from Riak Machar, has announced in a statement that he is the chairman of the United Faction, thus deposing Riak Machar. This comes within the context of the sharp schisms within the feuding remnants of the rebellion. They have been accusing each other of determining leadership positions on a tribal basis, and of diverting the movement's finances to personal accounts.

It should be recalled that rebels Riak Machar and Lam Akol broke away from the Sudanese People's Liberation

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Army [SPLA] in August 1991, and called their group the United Faction. Reports say that fighting is currently going on in the south of the country between feuding factions of the rebel movement. [passage omitted]

Defector: Ugandan Troops Helping Garang Faction

EA2909192994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] First Lieutenant (John Bol Mayak), a returnee from the rebel movement—Garang's faction—who was with the movement for twelve years as a member of the political committee and its committee on choosing delegations for the various peace negotiations with the government, has disclosed that the Ugandan Government has been providing them with ammunition and arms since 1986 in all areas of operations in the south. He added, in a statement to the radio reporter, that after the movement weakened and split, and after the victories achieved by the armed forces and the people's defense in recovering towns and strategic positions, the support had increased in that the infantry of the Ugandan Army now participated in the operations in an attempt to impede the Sudanese forces from reaching the border. He explained that the Ugandan Army had participated with 6,000 soldiers in an infiltration attempt made by the rebels in Juba in 1992. They also participated with six tanks and 25 rocket launchers in addition to anti-aircraft positions and guns.

The returnee lieutenant, (John Bol Mayak), declared that the movement had ceased to be a regular army and that its soldiers had turned into scattered remnants fighting each other. He said foreign forces supported the rebel movement and the Ugandan Army was now cooperating with the scattered remnants of the rebellion in Kaia town. It also participated in the military operations in the towns of Kajo Kaji and Morobo.

At the same level, the returnee lieutenant, (John Bol Mayak), affirmed that Ugandan Government officials and its defense minister visited them in the Kaia area on the Ugandan-Sudanese border and constantly held meetings with them. They also planned defenses around which they deployed the Ugandan Army. He said officials of the Ugandan Government had explained to them that foreign states would continue to provide assistance to the Garang faction via Uganda to stop what they called the progress of the Arab and Islamic tide inside the African continent, and encourage the secession of the south.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Saudi Arabia

Protests Against Arrests Planned at Saudi Embassy

MM2909120094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Islamists Prepare for Protest Demonstration in Front of Saudi Embassy in London"]

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'Arabi—Sources in the Committee [for the Defense] of Legitimate Rights in London yesterday observed that a year has passed since the ulema committee statement which the Saudi Government used to justify the arrest of Shaykhs Salman al-'Awdah and Safar al-Hawali and scores of other ulema and clerics. The sources said that Shaykh Bin-Baz and the other members of the committee had refused to issue a new statement sanctioning the arrests.

Commenting on the Saudi Interior Ministry statement admitting the arrest of 110 ulema and clerics, the committee sources said that the statement is a precedent, since this is the first time the ministry has admitted that arrests have been made among scholars at such a level.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that contacts are currently being made in London to organize an Islamic demonstration in front of the Saudi Embassy in London, following the Friday prayers at the end of the week, in protest at these arrests.

As is known, the Interior Ministry indirectly denied reports of these arrests two days ago, accusing Western quarters of launching a tendentious defamation campaign against the Kingdom based on the publication of fabricated reports.

Editorial Justifies Recent Arrests

JN2909153094 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 27 Sep 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Nipping Sedition in the Bud"]

[Text] The clear and comprehensive statement issued by the Interior Ministry, which revealed the relentless and successful efforts made by the state for more than a year to besiege and confront signs of sedition and chaos some persons sought to incite, reflects the Islamic concept and the leadership's thoughts in confronting degenerate ideas that have begun to spread in our Islamic states.

The explanations included in the statement have been comprehensive in answering questions raised concerning the arrest of some persons who, according to the facts entrenched by the Interior Ministry statement, did not adhere to what the Senior Ulema Council decided, and did not avoid sensationalism although they had pledged to do so.

Based on its eagerness to secure peace for all people, the Interior Ministry decided to besiege the signs of sedition and nip it in the bud in a manner conforming with Islamic sharia. Therefore, a committee of ulema and state officials met with these persons, but the objectives and inclinations of these degenerates made them stick to their obstinacy in spite of the efforts to bring them back to the right path by the state and the Senior Ulema Council. This led the state, may God preserve it through its leaders, ulema, and men to move wisely to besiege sedition and nip it in the bud.

Editorial Hails Saudi Handling of Sedition Case

MM2909115794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 94 p 9

[Editorial: "An Announcement That Deserves Praise. Expressing an Opinion Is One Thing, Trying To Foment Sedition is Quite Another"]

[Text] All those who care about Saudi interests have warmly welcomed the Saudi Interior Ministry's decision to set the record straight and reveal the truth about the recent arrest of some advocates of sedition in a peaceful society.

Furthermore, it is clear that the Saudi Interior Ministry's step has confused the kingdom's enemies, who are experts at making a mountain out of a molehill and who now find themselves face to face with the true version of events. By bringing the issue out into the open the Saudi authorities have embarrassed the fabricators of fables and unmasked those trying to hide their true identity from world public opinion.

It is common knowledge that in every society there are elements that are determined to destroy its stability and undermine its security. Saudi Arabia is lucky because its share of these elements is much smaller than in most other societies. That is why there is no reason to be ashamed of the existence of a small number of people whose activities constitute a threat to public safety and a violation of the country's laws. It is the right and duty of every self-respecting government to protect its public from plotters who instigate trouble and disturbances.

Those affected by the Saudi Government's decision belong to the group which has caused many tragedies in the Islamic world.

The fact that these people try to wear the "human rights" mask when addressing the outside world is just a short-lived exercise in trickery and deception at the very least because the truth ultimately prevails.

It is clear that those trying to foment sedition hope to halt the kingdom's social, economic, and cultural development that has been in progress for half a century as part of state building, and also to torpedo the Islamic foundations of society.

The Saudi authorities' decision to tackle the sedition came after all patience and tolerance were exhausted.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

More tolerance of their provocations would most probably have been interpreted as a concession and a weakness.

When the matter was no more than expression of opinion, the Saudi authorities were tolerant without abandoning their vigilance and caution; but expressing views is one thing and trying to instigate sedition is quite another. There are limits which cannot be exceeded in any society. Saudi society today is based on firm foundations rooted in Islam, which it follows while at the same time seeking the development and innovation which are necessary and which mirror its social and economic development and its increasingly important world position. The will to change is at the heart of Saudi policy these days, and those who carefully examine the kingdom's development will realize that this is a top priority for King Fahd himself.

It is not strange, therefore, that certain elements are worried and resent Saudi society's development.

The Saudi people know the facts because they face them every day. What is especially important is that the misleading ideas prevailing in some Western states should be dispelled, and it is important that world public opinion should know that those affected by the recent decisions are people who launched campaigns to weaken a cohesive society, not develop and enhance it. They do not want any progress in the kingdom. They want to block and reverse such progress.

Saudi public opinion is mature enough to realistically assess the situation. It is aware of the role extremism plays in destroying many societies. What is even more important is that the Saudi people are proud of their religion and their Islamic identity and are capable, with God's help, of protecting them without anyone else's trusteeship, just as they are determined to build their future without any need for imprted models.

Correction to Interior Ministry Statement on Arrests

LD2709121294

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Interior Ministry Statement on Arrests" published in the 27 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 34:

Column one, last paragraph, first sentence make read: ...acts violating what a Muslim committed to society ought to be....(rewording sentence)

Column two, fifth paragraph, only sentence make read: ...No.: 2/951 Office of the Grand Mufti Secretariat General of the Senior 'Ulema

Date: 3.4.1414H. ...(adding additional elements)

Page 35, column one, fourth paragraph, first sentence make read: ...When the king received the decision-...(changing word)

United Arab Emirates

India Denies Backing Arbitration on Island Dispute

NC2909115194 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 29 September 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 29 (AFP)—India denied on Thursday that it backed moves by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to seek international arbitration to resolve a dispute with Iran over three Persian Gulf islands.

The UAE news agency WAM reported Tuesday that Indian foreign office undersecretary Salman Haidar [name as received] had said during a visit to Abu Dhabi that New Delhi "supported the idea of referring this dispute to the International Court of Justice."

But the Indian embassy in Tehran said in a statement that the remarks attributed to Haidar were "without foundation."

"India's position has always been in favor of a solution through dialogue between the parties concerned," the embassy said.

Iran and the UAE have been locked in a dispute over the ownership of the strategic islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, which lie at the entrance to the vital Hormuz Straight in the southern Gulf.

The UAE and its partners in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) urged Tehran last week to accept international arbitration on the dispute following the collapse of bilateral negotiations in September 1992.

Iran has refused the offer, saying it would not negotiate over sovereignty.

Yemen

Presidential Council Sends Message to Parliament

JN2909155394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 94

["Text" of message from the chairman and members of the Presidential Council to the speaker and members of the House of Representatives on 28 September—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [indistinct Koranic verse]

Esteemed brother Speaker of the House of Representatives, esteemed brothers of the House of Representatives: Peace and blessings of God be with you. The House of Representatives, which was elected on 27 April 1993 following direct and free general elections, is the direct fruit of the people's free will and an embodiment of the democratization process. It also provides constitutional legitimacy for the state of constitutional institutions. Constitutional amendments have been one of the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

major and urgent responsibilities of the House of Representatives since the election. This is in line with what the Presidential Council pledged to the people in the statement it issued before the referendum on the Constitution was held.

At the beginning of its meetings, the elected House of Representatives reviewed the views and observations that were raised in the national arena about certain constitutional clauses. It also reviewed important national, regional, and international changes which emerged after the completion of the Constitution in 1981, and up to the present time.

Based on all this, a national consensus has developed about the need to amend the Constitution. Therefore, the House of Representatives adopted constitutional amendments, having enriched them with discussions [words indistinct]. In view of the importance of the Constitution in achieving political stability, and since it expresses the reality of the national situation and developments in various political and economic fields [words indistinct]. This has made amending the Constitution an urgent matter and a national necessity [word indistinct] the directions and concepts related to political, economic, social, cultural, and defense issues, and in order to ensure the future of the democratization process, enhance national unity, and to settle any differences of views to [word indistinct) political stability and provide an adequate climate for implementing constitutional clauses in a manner reflecting everyone's eagerness to implement them on the ground.

Brother Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives: The esteemed house's approval of the constitutional amendments marks the final and most important step [words indistinct] national constants represented [words indistinct] party pluralism [words indistinct] and economic freedom and laying the right foundations for the modern Yemeni state and emphasizing and expanding the public rights and freedoms and eliminating the faults in the state's institutional structure and the dualities and obscurity of the powers invested in the constitutional establishments.

The Presidential Council has the honor of expressing to you and [words indistinct] its blessing of this significant national achievement represented in our people's determination [word indistinct], it [word indistinct] expresses its extreme satisfaction with the depth of constitutional legitimacy [words indistinct] embodied by your esteemed house [words indistinct].

Brother Speaker and Members of the house: As [words indistinct] emphasizes its great pride in your esteemed house's confidence in electing us as a Presidential Council for the Yemeni Republic, finds it extremely important [words indistinct] the great Yemeni (?people) the growing national awareness that led all to rally behind their political leadership and constitutional institutions in an unparalleled manner in the honorable national epic to defend the unity of the homeland and constitutional and democratic [word indistinct] targeted by the homeland's enemies [word indistinct] and attempts to tear it asunder.

Today, with the constitutional amendments having been approved by the House of Representatives, we take pleasure in expressing to you our deepest thanks and appreciation for the cooperation your esteemed house has shown with the Presidential Council and the national stand [word indistinct] during the sedition and war imposed by the forces of apostasy and [words indistinct].

I wish you every success in completing your constitutional procedure by choosing the man you deem fit to be president from among the national figures and the elements capable of delivering their national responsibilities, with which our people are rich [words indistinct] constitutional legitimacy and democracy and the principle of a peaceful rotation of power. [Words indistinct] the unity of the homeland and constitutional legitimacy has taken root and the democratic path in our country, based on political pluralism and [words indistinct] has grown stronger, for the sake of doing what is best for the homeland. We ask God the almighty to help our people in their effort to achieve all their ambitions of advancement and prosperity and help your esteemed house to make the right choice.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: God doth command you to render back you trusts to those to whom they are due. [Koranic verse]

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Opposition: MKO Stores Saddam's Chemical Weapons

LD2809220894 Tehran IRNA in English 2151 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, 28 Sep (IRNA)—Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) in a statement issued here today announced that Saddam's regime has hidden its chemical weapons in the depots of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in Baghdad and its suburbs.

A copy of the statement which was given to IRNA here today, says that Saddam has kept his chemical weapons in the MKO's depots because these depots have been deemed free of inspection by the United Nations' special inspection teams in Iraq.

According to the statement in a secret accord with Saddam the MKO's leadership has agreed to preserve the weapons of mass destruction and to print MKO's emblems on them to show that the weapons belonged to the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

Government Orders Kurds Near Kirkuk To Leave

NC2909201594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The Kurdish-language daily paper KURDISTAN NWAY issued by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan reports that on 25 and 26 September the Iraqi regime informed Kurdish families living in the Laylan area of Kirkuk Governorate that they should leave their homes and farmland and go to south Iraq with their belongings or to the liberated areas of the Kurdistan region without their personal belongings. This provocative step falls within the framework of the regime's efforts to Arabize the Kurdish areas and expel the original inhabitants in implementation of dictator Saddam Husayn's criminal plans.

Press Says Ration Changes 'Precautionary' Measure

JN2909140294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0727 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi papers have said that the evil ones under the U.S. Administration are trying to cripple Iraq through attempts to prolong the blockade. However, the Iraqi people's steadfastness, resilience, awareness, and vigilance will make the evil gathering feel helpless and will cause them to lift the blockade by their own hands.

In their editorials today, which come after President Saddam Husayn's address to party leaders in Baghdad on 27 September, the papers say that the fact which the enemies of Iraq should realize well is that the Iraqis are determined to assert their dignity and independent will and ensure a bright future.

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, says that leader Saddam Husayn's measures concerning the ration card were the best support for the children of our people to enable them to hold fast in the face of the aggression and the blockade. The paper indicates that the reduction of some ration card items, especially flour, is a precautionary measure meant to address present and future needs and to maintain our dignity and secure a bright future.

The paper adds that President Saddam Husayn's insistence that the Iraqis will not starve is an expressive indication of the historic leadership's accurate decisions and unmistakable determination to maintain the people's dignity and ensure their livelihoods, security, and revival.

Another daily, AL-IRAQ, says in an editorial headlined "Crossing Over to the Other Side of the River," that the insistence of the United States and its allies and henchmen to prolong the blockade despite the removal of all its justifications reflects the most glaring example of degenerated practices and reveals to what extent blind hatred and shortsighted aggressive policies can go.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration is besieging an entire people to achieve political objectives although it knows that those reckless objectives are impossible to achieve and that they are nothing but a wager on a pipe dream.

The paper adds: What our enemies must be well aware of is that we are determined to attain our dignity, independent will, and bright future. This is our only objective which we cannot take lightly or hesitate to reach.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Rabin Comments on Golan Bill, Syria, Jordan Talks

TA2909175394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he will convene the Labor Knesset faction and the Labor Party bureau next Tuesday [4 October] to discuss expanding the coalition. He believes that the Knesset members [MK's] who are seeking a special majority to reinforce the Golan Law will support the government. Mr. Rabin met Labor Party Young Guard members in Tel Aviv today. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports from the Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Tal] The prime minister said today that since the disengagement agreement no Labor-led government has succeeded in making peace with an Arab state. We did not have the courage to take reasonable risks, and now, after two years of achievements, it is time to realize the possibility of achieving peace. The prime minister said that those seeking a special majority are acting like cowards who fear the public's verdict. There is no precedence in any country for a special majority in such issues. Rabin said he wants to hold a dialogue with the aforementioned Labor MK's who are demanding a special majority. In this context, Mr. Rabin emphasized that it is extremely important to strengthen the coalition at this point:

[Rabin] I hope to convene the Labor Party bureau and Knesset faction next Tuesday. I will brief them about the agreement we have signed with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and seek the approval of the appropriate party forum for this agreement. All party MK's—and I am also referring to those who signed the bill on a special majority for the Golan Law—have undertaken to vote against any opposition proposal on this issue, with the possible exception of one member. The faction, including the six who signed the bill, will not cooperate with opposition initiatives to draft a bill on this issue. I believe that even the six who have signed the bill will accept the decision of the party and faction institutions in due course, and this will not happen during the next 45 days.

[Tal] Rabin reiterated that a referendum will not be held before a peace agreement with Syria, which includes the issues of normalization, security arrangements, the substance of peace, and the final withdrawal line, is initialed. Rabin said there is no point in holding a referendum on a hypothetical issue.

Referring to Jordan, Mr. Rabin said we have ended the state of war with that country and are now building the peace. He did not say, however, when the agreement will be signed. He only hopes this will happen soon.

Turning to the Syrian track, Mr. Rabin said there are developments, but there are still gaps in all issues.

Rabin, who was warmly received by the Labor Young Guard, said that the Jews have directed their prayers to Jerusalem for the last 3,000 years. To Jerusalem rather than Gamla, Rabin emphasized, adding that this was also his order of priorities: Jerusalem and parts of Judaea and Samaria, especially the Jordan Rift Valley as Israel's security border. This is much more important than any other region. Rabin also said he is opposed to having the Knesset decide on peace with Syria. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 29 September carries a recorded interview in Hebrew with Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. Asked whether he thinks that the government will fall, Rabin says: "No."]

Rabin: Golan Referendum Only After Agreement

TA2909154194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will convene the Labor Knesset faction and the Labor Party bureau next Tuesday [4 October] to approve the agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Mr. Rabin confirmed to correspondents at the Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv that the referendum on the Golan Heights will be held only after an agreement with Syria is initialed. Mr. Rabin believes that the six Labor Knesset members who belong to the Golan lobby will eventually come to support the government position. Rabin refused to react to reports that an agreement involving the return of territories will be signed with Jordan in the near future.

Sarid Concurs With View

TA2909143694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] During a tour of the south today, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid expressed great concern that internal political unrest will make it impossible to sign a peace treaty with Syria. Sarid is demanding that the agreement with Syria be initialed before a referendum is held. Our correspondent Yehudit Yehezqeli accompanied Sarid today:

[Begin recording] [Yehezqeli] Only after an agreement is initialed with Syria will a referendum be held. Thus stated Environment Minister Yosi Sarid during an official tour in the cities of Nes Ziyyona and Rehovot. Sarid warns against missing what he called an opportunity to sign a peace treaty with Syria, a thing which will create chaos in our region. He later termed the striking Golan Heights settlers the salt of the earth, but added that Israel will not commit suicide because of 3,000 families living on the Golan Heights:

[Sarid] With all due respect to the Golan Heights settlers—and I really do have a lot of respect for the people who went to live there on what many people at the time

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

considered an important national mission—I must tell them that Israel will not commit suicide because of 3,000 families. Although these people are the salt of the earth, I would not like them to become the salt that is rubbed in the wounds of the next war. [end recording]

New Likud Plan Proposes Territorial Compromise

TA2909180994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 94 p A5

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Text] A political plan denoting a willingness to make territorial compromises in the West Bank has for the first time been drafted by a senior Likud member. Zalman Shoval, the official in charge of Likud's foreign relations and a former ambassador to the United States, drafted the plan, which will soon be submitted to the party institutions for deliberation, with the knowledge of Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

Shoval suggests that the Likud announce at this point that when it establishes a government it will propose to the Palestinians that, in exchange for full Israeli sovereignty in yet-to-be-determined security zones in the West Bank, Israel will forego full sovereignty in other areas where there would be Palestinian sovereignty, either in a Jordanian-Palestinian or in an Israeli- Palestinian-Jordanian confederative framework, according to what is decided in the permanent arrangement.

Shoval does not attach any maps to his plan, but he notes that Israel's interests do not require the continued maintenance of full control over cities such as Ramallah, Nabulus, and Janin or other densely populated Arab areas.

"The question is not if and when to fulfill the maximal goals of the 'Greater Israel' vision, but how to prevent a potential enemy from attaining a 'Greater Palestine'," Shoval writes. At this point, Shoval will only be presenting the first part of his plan, which deals with the West Bank. He has not yet drafted the second part, dealing with an arrangement with Syria in the Golan Heights and in Lebanon, which he intends to submit at a later stage.

The plan was formulated following consultations with senior Likud members, including Netanyahu, and outside elements such as senior army officers, academics, and strategic experts.

Shoval points out that "peace is an aspiration uniting the entire Israeli people and is not the exclusive domain of any single party or person. A Likud-led government would conduct sincere and active peace negotiations based on realpolitik from a position of security and a belief in Israel's justness."

Although he criticizes the "Oslo process," Shoval proposes that the Likud view the agreements the current government signed with the PLO as a fait accompli and contends that a Likud-led government must pledge to honor them if the other side abides by them.

He says that the Likud should formulate a plan that aspires to shorten the interim period as much as possible and should strive to reach a permanent arrangement in Judaea and Samaria as soon as possible in order to prevent the creation of facts during the interim period that conflict with Israel's vital interests.

As part of the permanent arrangement, Shoval proposes that a Likud-led government establish "security zones" in Judaea and Samaria and incorporate most of the Jewish settlements into them. The plan shows that Shoval does not rule out the possible evacuation of several settlements in a permanent arrangement and their relocation to areas that would be defined as "security zones."

Shoval proposes a territorial contiguity among those security zones or among them and Israel's territory, although no such contiguity would exist among the Palestinian sovereign zones.

To this effect Shoval proposes that a Likud-led government conduct negotiations with any elected Palestinian leadership or one that is acceptable to the majority of the Arab inhabitants of the territories. However, if the Palestinians do not conduct genuine negotiations or if they violate previous agreements, Israel would implement its plan unilaterally.

Shoval proposes that Israel maintain a military presence on the Jordan River and on "the mountain ridge" in the West Bank and continue to control the roads leading to the Jordan Valley, even in a permanent arrangement. Joint supreme committees would be set up to deal with vital issues of common interest to Israel and the Palestinians, such as water, internal roads, land, and internal security.

He further proposes that the Palestinian entity be given the right to administer its foreign relations on specific issues to be determined, in the areas of economics, health, and culture, and any other area that does not contravene the agreements with Israel. To that end, it would be allowed to open representation offices in other countries while foreign legations would open offices within its boundaries. In case of conflict, the agreement with Israel would override any other agreement.

According to the plan, Jerusalem would not be the subject of political negotiations. Nevertheless, Shoval suggests that the Likud-led government put forward far-reaching practical proposals to meet the religious aspirations of Muslims and Christians regarding their holy shrines.

Shoval proposes to conduct negotiations with authorized representatives of the Islamic waqf and/or other Muslim elements in a bid to give the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem a status similar to those of Catholic sites in

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Italy outside Vatican City as spelled out in the Lateran Treaty (signed in 1929 between the Italian Government and the Holy See).

Although such an agreement would create extraterritorial areas, Shoval believes it would in no way detract from Israel's sovereign status in all of Jerusalem or from the right of Jews to pray at the Temple Mount as they do today. Shoval proposes similar agreements with those Christian churches wishing to make such accords.

Shoval proposes to examine the possible establishment of community boards for the non-Jewish communities in Jerusalem that would represent them on various (non-political) issues before the municipality and the government. Other issues, such as the civilian status of those Arab inhabitants of the city who do not wish to be Israeli citizens, as well as the personal, economic, cultural, and other ties of the entire Arab population of Jerusalem with their brethren elsewhere, would be decided separately.

"Only a right-center government can sign peace agreements that would be acceptable to the majority of Israel's population and that would convince the Arab side that the Israeli public accepts it as solid and durable, not subject to challenges in the future by any possible opposition," Shoval notes in the introduction to his plan.

He points out that "the plan is based on pragmatic political and security considerations, but does not ignore the ideology on which the rights of the Jewish people over the Land of Israel is founded." Nevertheless, he adds, the Likud must adopt a pragmatic approach that calls for abandoning the notion of a "Greater Israel" so as to attain an agreement that prevents the Palestinians from fulfilling the idea of a "Greater Palestine."

Shoval points out that Likud members want their party to come up with answers that do not contradict its "credo" but contend with the new reality created in the region. He thus espouses a different line than other prominent Likud members, such as Dan Meridor, David Levi, and Moshe Qatzav, who believe that the Likud should not present a new political plan now and should adhere to its long-standing platform.

Almost Half of Likud Voters Back Golan Withdrawal

TA3009064694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] A survey of Likud voters' positions conducted by Haifa University's unit for statistical counselling has revealed that almost 50 percent of Likud voters believe that it is impossible to achieve peace with Syria without a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

Forty-one percent of the Likud supporters believe that peace can be reached without a territorial compromise. The survey also indicates that two-thirds of the general public believe that peace cannot be attained without a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

Dr. Avner Halevi, who directed the survey, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the results were culled from a sample of over 1,500 citizens.

No Compromise in Rabin-Meretz Meeting on SHAS

TA2509165494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin met this afternoon with ministers from Meretz and the head of the party's Knesset faction to discuss the possible return of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to the government coalition. However, our reporter says no compromise was reached between Labor and Meretz which would allow Meretz to support SHAS' returning to the government. Elements within Meretz have opposed the return of SHAS, claiming SHAS is demanding too much on religious issues.

Meanwhile Labor Knesset faction chairman Eli Dayan says every effort, including reasonable concessions, must be made to allow SHAS back in the government because of the important decisions ahead on the future of the Golan Heights.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Discusses Agreements

NC3009102794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamduh al-Biltaji, in Tel Aviv, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Miliji] Good morning, Minister. We welcome you to the program.

[Al-Biltaji] Thank you.

[Al-Miliji] Could you please tell us about the objectives of your visit?

[Al-Biltaji] It has three basic aims, first of all boosting tourism relations between Egypt and Israel and between Egypt and Jordan, that is, increasing the number of tourists coming from these two countries to Egypt and also expanding the flow of Egyptian tourists to them. The second aim is to benefit from the international tourism movement that involves certain groups of tourists who choose to visit an entire region. Some tourists coming from far away countries currently visit more than one country on one trip. This regional tourism produces revenue that is added to the revenue produced by tourists who visit only one country. Every country has its own attractions to tourists and consequently the new phenomenon of regional tourism does not harm its original tourist business. Our third aim is to learn what is

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

happening in connection with the development of Jordanian-Israeli tourist relations. We wish to learn what ideas are being proposed. [passage omitted]

[Al-Miliji] Have you reached any specific agreements with Israel?

[Al-Biltaji] We have agreed to redouble our publicity efforts to attract regional tourism and get a larger share of it in addition to our purely Egyptian tourist business. Some tourists continue to come to Egypt because they wish to visit Egypt only. The same applies to other countries, including Israel. In addition to this purely national tourist business, we wish to increase our share of regional tourism by those who come from far away countries and who like to visit more than one country. We also agreed to increase the movement of tourists between Egypt and Israel. This is natural in view of the fact that every country wishes to increase its tourist business revenue.

[Al-Miliji] Dr. al-Biltaji, thank you. We welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Biltaji] Thanks to you.

French, Norwegian, Irish Defense Officials Visit

TA2909123794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 94 p A11

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met last night with French Chief of Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade. Rabin surveyed the Middle East peace process and said the defense budget will not be cut so as to maintain the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] power. Rabin stressed that the Middle East is still in the midst of an arms race and that the basic problem of the region and the entire world is international terrorism fueled and funded mainly by Iran. He added that Israel is interested in strengthening ties with France's defense establishment. The French chief of staff conveyed a message to Rabin from French Defense Minister Francois Leotard.

The French chief of staff began his official visit to Israel and the IDF yesterday as guest of his counterpart, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq. Adm. Lanxade was received at an official ceremony by an IDF honor guard and the IDF band. Later, he held his first working session with Gen. Baraq and then a group of senior Army officers, headed by the chief of staff. The guest heard reports on IDF activity and the security situation in the region. The French chief of staff will visit the Ground Forces Command and the Air Force where he will receive reports on weapons and ammunition systems.

A. Danielson, director general of the Norwegian Defense Ministry, arrived in Israel last night as guest of his counterpart David 'Ivri to look into the potential of the local defense industries. Danielson will stay in Israel three days and visit the Israel Aircraft Industries accompanied by senior officials and an adviser from the Norwegian embassy.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin yesterday met with Irish Defense Minister Noel Dempsey [title and name as published] at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. They discussed ways to advance relations between the two states, as well as Ireland's participation in UN peacekeeping forces.

French General: No Military Cooperation With Iraq

TA2909160894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The French chief of staff says France has never maintained military and technological cooperation with Iraq, nor will it do so in the future. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the French chief of staff today visited the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Armored Corps school and Air Force bases and observed a Ground Forces Command live-fire exercise.

Settler Attacked in Gaza; Soldier Wounded in Hebron

TA2909122694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] There has been an attempted terrorist attack near the settlement of Neve Deqalim in the Gaza Strip. Datya Herschcovich, the spokeswoman of the Gaza Regional Council, says when she stopped her car near Neve Deqalim a Palestinian opened the car door and attacked her with an iron bar, but she succeeded in fighting him off. Security forces are searching for the attacker.

In the territories today, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was lightly wounded when he was hit in the head during a clash in Hebron. Qol Yisra'el's reporter covering the area says the soldier was on a jeep patrol when his vehicle was pelted with rocks and with a Molotov cocktail. The firebomb hit the windshield of the vehicle and lightly damaged it. The soldier was evacuated to hospital.

Palestinian sources say two Arab youths were wounded slightly and two others arrested in the incident. The Islamic Jihad terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Golan Heights Settlers End Hunger Strike

TA2909193294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The Gamla hunger strikers ended their strike this evening following a meeting with Knesset Member Avigdor Qahalani. The strikers said they will continue their struggle according to prearranged plans. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports a rally attended by many Golan Heights settlers is currently being held in Gamla.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Kakh's Marzel Released From Jail, Confined

TA2609141594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Barukh Marzel, the former leader of the banned Kakh movement was released from Sharon prison in Tel Mond this morning. Kefar Sava police intervened to prevent a clash between dozens of Kakh activists and relatives of Palestinian security prisoners being released from the same prison. One of the Kakh activists raised a flag of the movement, and Marzel said as he left prison: Rabin is a dictator. IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command head, Major General Ilan Biran, has issued an order confining Marzel to his home area of Tall al-Rumaythah in Hebron.

Police Arrest 5 Members of al-Rujub Security Service

TA3009114594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Several days ago, members of Jibril al-Rujub's security service arrested an Arab prisoner who had escaped from an Israeli prison and turned him over to the Jerusalem Police through the Shin Bet.

The Jerusalem Police subsequently arrested five East Jerusalem residents suspected of carrying out illegal activities on behalf of al-Rujub's security service and of attacking the escaped prisoner.

Al-Rujub is now claiming that the police have violated an agreement made with him, as one of the conditions for handing over the prisoner was that the police would take no steps against al-Rujub's men.

Commentator Attacks Egyptian Position on NPT

TA2909124094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 94 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Put Everything on the Table"]

[Text] Egypt has recently taken a grave step in the nuclear debate it is conducting with Israel. Cairo has begun to incite the bloc of unaligned states, in addition to the Arab states, not to renew their signatures on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) if Israel does not join. Cairo's aim is obvious. It wants to bring about an international confrontation between Israel and those states interested in renewing and bolstering the treaty.

Cairo has known for some time, and it was made clear again recently, that Israel does not intend to join at this stage and that it will do so when the time comes, following a comprehensive peace and within the framework of regional arrangements. Nevertheless, Cairo strives for an international standoff, with Israel at the epicenter. Egypt wants to give the United States the following choice: Either Israel joins the treaty—whether willingly or otherwise—or the NPT is in danger of disintegration. That is a hostile move toward Israel, especially under the present conditions. The damage it could cause would be vast because it would affect not only Israel, but also the peace process. Egypt did not take such action against Iraq or even against Pakistan.

The Egyptian move is also aimed at embarrassing the United States. Cairo knows that renewal of the NPT is one of the cornerstones of U.S. foreign policy, and Egypt's message to Washington is: If you want to rescue the NPT you must exert pressure on Israel as quickly as possible. But Cairo also knows that the U.S. Administration does not want to rattle the peace process with exaggerated demands. The administration understands that Israel will advance slowly until it can permit itself to join the treaty. Washington knows that disclosures about Iraqi nuclear activity and North Korea's nuclear affair—both states are signatories to the NPT—buttressed Israel's position not to sign the NPT under the present conditions. It is clear that Washington is angry that Cairo is trying to force it to choose between applying pressure on Israel on a sensitive issue and the weakening of the NPT.

Leading the radical Egyptian line is Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Even before he become foreign minister, Cairo claimed that Israel must divulge its nuclear secrets. "Put everything on the table," the Egyptians said. "We understand that Israel needs a deterrent capability that includes a nuclear element, but an agreement must be reached that this is for a limited period. We must now decide how long this interim stage will last." When it failed to win over with this approach, aimed at causing an immediate confrontation between Israel and the U.S. Congress, Cairo moved onto the next phase.

In the first stage, over a year ago, Egyptian representatives said in private talks that if Israel does not join the treaty, Cairo and other Arab states will sign the NPT only for a limited period. The first accord, which is meant to last 25 years, ends in 1995, while the current aim is to have no time limit on it. The Egyptians are now threatening not to sign at all. Egypt, like most Arab states, refused to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention. It now wants to drag the unaligned states after it.

As long as Cairo sticks to its radical line the entire peace process, and not only the NPT talks, could be harmed. Egypt knows full well Israel's positions. It knows that no Israeli Government, even the most moderate, could agree to large territorial concessions and at the same time weaken, and in fact do away with, its deterrent capability. Such a peace would not be accepted by the Israeli public and would be dangerous from a security point of view. Strategic logic dictates a different approach. Territorial concessions for peace require at the initial stage maintaining Israel's deterrent capability and even bolstering it.

Totally undermining the deterrent formula would make peace too risky. It might also cause a serious rift in the nation, which even peace could not mend over. Cairo

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

ignores all these aspects, and perhaps its aim is to bring about such a rift inside Israel so as to weaken it. We must fight this Egyptian approach. That is a good reason to bring about a confrontation between Cairo and Washington, which also wants to torpedo the radical approach. In addition, the smokescreen that all of Egypt's actions are for the sake of peace must be lifted. We have given it an honorable senior status in the peace process which it does not deserve. Only Egypt's President Husni Mubarak can prevent that confrontation and the way to bring it about is an urgent personal meeting between him and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Writer Analyzes al-Asad's Policy Toward Israel

TA2409170694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 16 Sep 94 pp 1-4

[Article by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Why Is he Arming"]

[Text] For many years, President al-Asad dreamed about strategic parity with Israel. A dream he failed to fulfill. Even in the good years, when the USSR and its satellites were behind them, the Syrians could not go to battle with Israel without the other Arab confrontation states. While now, with the old patron gone and Syria negotiating peace with Israel, al-Asad is closer than ever to fulfilling his dream.

The intelligence communities of Israel and the United States are convinced though that the Syrian president does not currently have a realistic option of capturing the Golan Heights or part of it by force of arms. But in five to seven years—that is the window of military opportunities that Rabin and Baraq would like to jump through to peace, as long as it is open; as long as al-Asad is in power, and as long as Syria has a ruler who keeps his word that he intends to make peace with Israel.

If the window is closed shut and there is no peace with Syria, Major General Uri Sagi, head of the Military Intelligence Branch, says, Israel will sooner or later have to fight against an eastern coalition led by Syria. It is important to note that during about the same period, the nonconventional military capabilities Iran worked so hard at building up will come to fruition, and Iraq might also free itself of sanctions by then.

The Syrian Army is already the largest or second largest in the Middle East. President al-Asad has the largest and most modern tank force in the region. The number of advanced Scud missile launchers is the same, or even higher, than that of Iraq at the start of the Gulf war. He has the largest and most sophisticated chemical arms stockpile in the region, and he is developing in cooperation with Iran an impressive capability to construct missiles and manufacture regular, chemical, and biological warheads.

What does he not have? He still does not have an air umbrella—aircraft and antiaircraft missiles—to defend his impressive arsenal and the military industry he is setting up against the Israeli Air Force; the number of Scud-C missiles and Su-24 aircraft he has is still not sufficient to destroy the steadfastness of the Israeli home front; his Armored Corps has still not absorbed the qualitative and quantitative jump it began three years ago; his Army does not have the same night warfare capability the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has.

Therefore, in the present setup it would be suicide for Syria to start an offensive against Israel. Even an attempted minor military takeover on Mount Hermon and the northern corner of the Golan Heights might end up in disaster from Damascus' point of view, not only because Israel has a modern Air Force equipped with sophisticated and precise weaponry; not only because the Golan Heights have Merkava tanks with fire-control systems the Syrians can only dream about, but also because there is at present not a single external political element that can stop the IDF. The Syrians know that if they attack—even if they have successes in the initial stage—the United States, with Clinton in the White House—will give Israel all the time and military assistance needed to return the situation to what it was before, and even beyond that.

So far we have been discussing a Syrian attack on Israel. From the Syrian point of view, however, there is also a different scenario, one in which Israel attacks Syria. We sometimes find it hard to comprehend, but the Arab states still have a deeply rooted belief that Israel is trying to expand its borders from the Nile to the Euphrates. Al-Asad also views a situation in which Israel will try to impose on Syria its terms for peace on the Golan Heights and in Lebanon, as it tried to do in the Lebanon war.

Therefore, no less than al-Asad wants to achieve an offensive capability, he wants to make sure that the IDF does not one day go beyond the cease-fire line on the Golan Heights and find itself in the suburbs of Damascus. On that, he can already be more relaxed. Not only is Syrian armor capable of stopping an offensive Israeli move on the Golan or in Lebanon, but al-Asad can respond measure for measure if our Air Force attacks, as it did in the Yom Kippur war 20 years ago, and destroys half of Syria's civilian industry and infrastructure.

The surface-to-surface missiles al-Asad possesses enables him to threaten our home front to the same extent that we threaten his. From a quantitative view, the Syrian Army is currently on par with the IDF, and in certain fields—for instance, tanks and surface-to-surface missiles—the Syrians even have a slight edge over the IDF. Qualitatively, in equipment and manpower, the IDF still has a clear advantage, but it is being offset by the fact that the IDF is mainly a reserves Army while the Syrian Army is a regular Army and can move straight from its permanent camps into either a holding defense situation or the offensive.

Here, if we are discussing Syria's ability to defend itself against Israel, it is possible to say that a situation of strategic parity has been created, and that is new in the Middle East arena. It is very possible that is the factor

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

that played a key role in the Syrian ruler's readiness to enter into negotiations with us. Al- Asad always said that the fateful negotiations with Israel will be conducted from a position of power. It is reasonable to assume that the ongoing military buildup gives him and his people the self- confidence and cool-headedness he is now showing in the political process.

It is only natural that Syria's massive military buildup in the midst of the peace process with Israel would spark questions on our side. There are those—for example, the commander of the Northern Command—who fear that what is involved is a strategic deception. They are concerned that al-Asad wants to achieve through the negotiations a period of tranquility to permit his Army to complete what it lacks in the air and in air defenses, and to absorb the quantitative and qualitative jump taken by his ground forces.

But the accepted evaluation in the IDF and the intelligence communities is that Syria is doing precisely what Israel is doing. In other words, it is negotiating peace, but becoming stronger and planning for the possibility that the negotiations might fail, and the deadlock might lead to war. Only the future will tell who was right. At the moment, the signs on the ground indicate al-Asad wants peace. When Israel attacks in Lebanon, close to Syrian positions, the Syrians take care not to be drawn into a direct confrontation.

The Syrian Army has ceased its regular practice in the summer of redeploying in the Golan Heights into an offensive lineup. Even the training plan is quite harmless, and the type of exercises does not indicate offensive intentions. From time to time, al-Asad holds meetings with his commanders and preaches to them the need for peace. Despite the fact that it can be learned from these meetings that Syria's senior commanders are not totally at ease with the idea, there is no public criticism, either direct or indirect, of the leader.

The real concern in Israel about the Syrian Army's buildup is due mainly to two possible scenarios: One, a deadlock in the negotiations with Israel, which leads al-Asad to the conclusion that he does not have a chance of achieving what he wants from the Americans or from us. He might then try to organize an eastern coalition with Iran, and perhaps also with Iraq, in order to achieve what he wants through military means.

The other scenario—a takeover by fundamentalist radicals in Syria following al-Asad's demise and their denial of the security accord and its overall security arrangements.

The Syrian military buildup is a relatively new phenomenon which began about four years ago. In the late 1980's, the Syrian Army was in a dour situation. Gorbachev, almost from the moment he came to power in the USSR, made it clear to al-Asad that he must forget his dream of strategic parity and direct his efforts at achieving peace with Israel.

In order to make that demand stick and in order to reduce the economic burden on his country, the last Soviet president closed the taps to Syria's military buildup. For a certain period, a small trickle of spare parts still flowed in to Damascus bought with credit from Moscow, but when the Soviet regime finally collapsed in 1989, the Syria Army's chief logistical life artery also dried up.

On the free market, Syria's economy barely sufficed to pay for purchases vital for survival. The Syrian Army underwent perhaps four of its worst years until the Gulf war came and redeemed it from stalemate and degeneration.

American commanders did not receive a good impression of the level of the officers and soldiers in Syria's 9th Armored Division, which al-Asad removed from the Golan Heights and sent to Saudi Arabia in order to fight Saddam Husayn. For political and also operational reasons, the Americans deployed it in the reserves and made sure it would not be needed for battle. But following the war, the Syrian ruler demanded to be fully compensated for his political gesture. When the 9th Division returned home, it was allowed to take war booty: several dozen Iraqi tanks and mobile cannons, which greatly improved the condition of the spare parts in the Syrian Army's inventories.

But the icing on the cake was a $1.5 billion grant Syria received from the Saudi royal family and the easy terms credit of several hundred million dollars put at its disposal by European states. Al- Asad could finally begin a speedy procurement plan which would put his Army back into the front ranks in the Middle East.

The Syrian Army knew precisely what it wanted. In the Gulf war, the Syrian officers were exposed to Western methods and weapons systems, and when they returned home they brought with them the lessons of sophisticated and precise ammunition. Syria also quickly learned the lessons of the Scud war conducted by Iraq against Israel and the Saudis. They observed the effect the al-Husayn missiles left on the Israeli home front and the failed attempts to intercept the missiles, and they understood that there is some way to compensate them for their aerial inferiority against the Israeli Air Force.

Even before the Gulf war, Syria tried to procure surface-to- surface missiles from North Korea and China, but after the war, building Syria's long arm became the top priority national objective of the Syrian Army. Damascus is now devoting lots of effort and money into what it calls a strategic cover.

The Syrians did not make do with procurement. Due to their bitter experience with the closing of the Soviet tap, they included in the Scud-C deal they signed with North Korea in 1992, know-how and technologies to permit them to construct these missiles in North Korea in the first stage, and to do it themselves at a later stage. Iran is helping Syria in this effort.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Syria now has several dozen Scud-C missiles and more than 10 launchers. It has already carried out two or three successful test launches with these missiles, which have a range of some 500 km, carry a warhead of some 800 kg, and their precision is an ellipse of several hundred meters around the target. In addition, Syria has 18 launchers of old Scud-B missiles, whose range is some 300 km and are less precise than the Scud-C's. It also has a Soviet SS-21 missiles brigade—these missiles have a range of some 120 km—and dozens of old short-range (70 km) Russian Frog missiles.

In general, Syria has some 60 long-range missile launchers and a large number of short-range missile launchers. The bottom line is that Syria is capable today of hitting with its missiles any site in the State of Israel with some measure of precision.

Another component of Syria's long strategic arm is some 20 Su-24 aircraft, which have the capability of infiltrating at a very low altitude with a large payload. The Syrians are now trying to procure from Russia an additional number of such aircraft.

The Syrians have a no less impressive achievement in the chemical weapons area. "The Syrians have the largest and most sophisticated program in the Arab world in the manufacture of chemical weapons," American researcher Michael Eisenstadt wrote in JANE'S INTELLIGENCE REVIEW. It makes large quantities of nerve gas (VX and Serin) and mustard gas. Following years long efforts at the Syrian Army's research and development institute (which parallels our Armament Development Authority) the Syrians managed to develop and manufacture binary chemical warheads for missiles and artillery rockets, as well as air bombs of the same type.

Binary bombs and warheads are the last word in chemical warfare production. Two types of gas are stored in the warhead or bomb, which merge and become a lethal gas only close to striking time. Such warheads may be stored for years, and they are much safer to the user than regular chemical warheads.

According to Eisenstadt, Syria has a biological warfare development and production program and gets professional assistance from the Chinese and the North Koreans in this field as well. Two years ago the Syrians also launched a nuclear research program which is still in its initial stages.

The danger of such a program lies mainly in the Iranian context. If Iran develops a military nuclear ability and at some stage gives access to it to Syria the latter will have the installation and manpower infrastructure to deal with such weapons and use them.

Why does Syria need a nonconventional long-range arm? Opinions on the issue vary in the intelligence community and academia. Some researchers argue that it is developing these strategic arm and chemical weapons to deter Israel from using the nuclear weapons Syria claims Israel already possesses.

Other analysts believe that Syria will not hesitate to use this arm against Israel even if the latter does not threaten it or use nuclear weapons against it. According to these analysts, Syria will use missiles and chemical weapons to disrupt the mobilization of Israel's reserves and to demoralize its civilian population. Judging by his recent proclamations, one could say that Prime Minister Rabin subscribes to this view, which he uses as an argument to explain why we must make painful concessions just so as to attain peace with Syria.

This argument, however, is a doubled-edged sword. If the Syrians plan to disrupt the mobilization of the reserves by using missiles and chemical weapons, that is exactly why the IDF should be deployed on the Golan and not below it. This, to enable a relatively small regular unit to keep the Syrian tanks at bay—which would try to capitalize on the missile strike to advance—from comfortable defense positions and backed by the antitank obstacles Israel built on the Golan. Containment on the Golan would give the reserves units held back by the missiles and chemical weapons time to reorganize and deploy in positions to defend the Galilee settlements.

If the Israeli Government nevertheless decides to withdraw from the Golan the agreement with Syria must include special and tight security arrangements that either ensure the dismantling of the Syrian missile force or drastically curtail their ability to use them against Israel.

The second most important element in the Syrian buildup is the ground forces. In the wake of the Gulf war the Syrians may have liked to modernize their Air Force and antiaircraft defense systems with Western equipment. However, the United States is not prepared to sell them advanced aircraft and the Europeans, just like the Russians, demand payment in cash—and lots of it.

The resources at Syria's disposal after the Gulf war, as well as the ever-growing oil royalties it has been getting, are not enough to purchase a significant number of aircraft and sophisticated ammunition, and that is why the Syrians have been investing in the assault ground forces.

Their central project has been the renewal of Syria's tank fleet which until three years ago consisted mostly of dated Soviet T-55's and T-62's. The East European market is flooded with different types of T-72's, and the Syrians (who know this tank's qualities) bought huge quantities of it at cut-rate prices.

The price of a modern tank in the West oscillates between $2 to $3 million, or maybe more. The Syrians bought the sophisticated T-72 M-1A for $750,000 each from Russia and the Czech Republic. Today almost half of the Syrian Army's tanks are T-72's (Syria has a total of 4,000 active tanks). The rest are dated models, mainly T-55's.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The Syrians also introduced some 300 self-propelled 122-mm cannons bought from Bulgaria. Until recently all of Syria's artillery was mounted on trailers and could not move at the same pace as the tanks. Now, almost all its armored brigades include battalions of self-propelled cannons which can join an offensive together with the tanks and give them close cover. This represents a very significant improvement in the offensive ability of the Syrian ground forces.

And that is not all. In his book "The Military Balance in the Middle East" published by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, 'Amos Gilbo'a notes that, following the procurement of the tanks and self-propelled cannons, the Syrian Army transformed reserve armored divisions into regular divisions.

All in all, the ground forces (two corps) at President al-Asad's disposal total 12 divisions as follows: seven armored divisions (mainly equipped with T-72's); three mechanized divisions; one commando division (stationed in Lebanon along with a mechanized divisions); and one armored division of the Presidential Guard.

In addition to that, there are over 1,000 antitank missile launchers in all units and some 100 helicopter gunships. In quantitative terms, the Syrian Army's might exceeds that of the IDF.

This statement should be qualified by noting that the tank fire control systems bought by Syria are not the most advanced and that they hardly have any sophisticated night-warfare equipment. The level of their training is quite poor, mainly because of budgetary constraints. However, in many cases quantity makes up for quality, and in any arrangement Israel must make sure that Syria's tanks and self-propelled cannons, most of which are currently deployed on the Golan Heights, do not take us by surprise and appear one day outside the fences of the kibbutzim in the Hula Valley or in 'En Gev.

One must also bear in mind that Syria is not yet done with its military buildup. It is well aware of its inferiority in the air and aircraft defenses and is trying very hard to change this situation by procuring equipment from Russia. The Syrians are particularly trying to buy another batch of MiG-29's and Su-24's.

They are particularly intent on their attempts to procure SA-10 ground-to-air Russian missiles whose performance compares to that of the U.S. Patriots. The Russians are not eager to sell, either because Syria does not have the cash or because they have not yet worked out an arrangement to repay at least some of Syria's debt of $10 to $12 billion for military equipment bought in the past.

A Russian delegation visited Syria in April this year and informed it that it would accept repayment of 20 percent of the debt, but in cash. The Syrians proposed to pay Russia back with goods. No agreement was reached, but the Russians resumed the supply of spare parts to the Syrian Air Force. This enabled Syrian pilots to step up training, which had been dramatically cut back in recent years due to the shortages.

The Russian chief of staff visited Syria in June, and a new arms deal was also discussed on that occasion. However, at this point, no agreement seems to have been reached. Nevertheless, one may safely assume that Syria will ultimately get what it wants. This fact, particularly the possible procurement of SA-10 missiles, seriously worries Israel.

The Syrian buildup is a fact. Therefore, in any agreement with the Syrians that entails a withdrawal from its current positions on the Golan, Israel must make sure that Syria's growing might does not endanger it, even if radical elements rise to power in Syria who renege on the peace agreement.

Hence, the security arrangements must include weighty clauses about dismantling weapons and missiles, demilitarizing large areas of land, and internationally supervising the use of weapons that could threaten and surprise Israel.

The prime minister would be well advised to change his pronouncements and, instead of saying that "the depth of withdrawal will be tantamount to the depth of normalization and peace," he should henceforth tell the Syrians that "the depth of withdrawal will be tantamount to the depth of the security arrangements." Otherwise, any change in Syria and its regime will force Israel to take precautionary measures under much more difficult and dangerous conditions than those existing today.

Bank of Israel Raises Interest Rates 1.5 Percent

TA2609122894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Sep 94 pp 1, 11

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Excerpt] The Bank of Israel yesterday surprised everyone with its decision to raise interest rates by 1.5 percent on Thursday, upping the ante in its battle against inflation. The TASE [Tel Aviv Stock Exchange] fell sharply on the news, with the broad Two-Sided Index falling by 2.8 percent, and the narrower Ma'of slipping by 2.7 percent.

The Histadrut, Manufacturers Association, and Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish all attacked the move, but Danny Gillerman, president of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce, said the Bank of Israel is the only institution trying to deal with the problem of accelerated inflation.

The move follows a similar hike last month, which was preceded by seven 0.5 percent increases since November. The previous hikes failed to dampen inflation.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

As of Thursday, the Bank of Israel will charge commercial banks 15.5 percent on their daily loans, instead of the current 14 percent.

The increase will be passed on to the banks' customers as of Friday, the commercial banks announced yesterday. Customers will pay more for their overdrafts and other loans and will receive higher interest payments on their deposits.

The interest rate hike was necessary in order to bring down inflation to a level consistent with the government's 1995 inflation goal ranging between 8 percent and 11 percent, Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel told journalists in Tel Aviv.

"It will be very serious if we fail to bring down inflation to the declared goal, since it will really undermine the credibility of the government's economic policy," he said.

Frenkel called the tremendous growth in private consumption the main culprit behind this year's rising inflation. Although, most economic forecasts estimated that private consumption would grow by 6 percent, it has expanded by 11.5 percent, he said. As a result, the deficit in the balance of payments has worsened to $2.9 billion, instead of the originally estimated $1.7b.

Frenkel enumerated several factors that led him to push rates up significantly. He noted the record trade deficit registered last month, and an 8 percent jump in retail sales. In addition, inflation has been running at an annual rate of 14.5 percent since the beginning of the year, while the interest rate the central bank charges commercial banks stands at 14 percent, resulting in negative real interest rates. This, he said, does not help curb inflation.

The fact interest rates on bonds sold in the capital market assume that inflation will hover around 15 percent in the coming year emphasizes the need for the central bank to tighten the money supply if those inflationary expectations are to change, he said.

Another element worrying central bank officials is the recent rapid growth in unlinked credit available to the public, which expanded by 5.7 percent in July, followed by 1.9 percent last month. It is rising at a much faster pace than the Consumer Price Index.

Although Frenkel termed the government's recent declarations against inflation "good news," he criticized several of its moves for going in the wrong direction. He took exception, in particular, to the fact that the government will soon present a supplementary budget. Even though the supplementary budget will not expand the deficit, it will increase government spending which will contribute to greater consumption, at a time when consumption should be curbed.

Frenkel hinted that the government's anti-inflation package is very limited, since inflationary items, such as the 10 percent wage increase in the public sector, could not be touched. He added that proposals to further open the local market to imports were important in their own right, but not as means to lower inflation.

He was also skeptical about the Treasury's proposed package deal with the Histadrut to reduce the next cost-of-living wage adjustment by more than 2 percent, and to cut the health tax by 1.5 percent and National Insurance Institute employee taxes by 0.5 percent, as a means to restrain private labor costs. Frenkel warned that the danger of these package deals is that they often turn into a "tranquilizer" which defers the problem and, worse, the solution. He also cautioned against tax cuts that will promote consumption by increasing individuals' disposable income.

The central bank's move will provide an incentive for greater savings and help rein in consumption, he said. He added that this is a most opportune time for hiking interest rates, as economic activity is very high, unemployment is low, and there is nothing in the horizon that is about to stop the consumption boom in its tracks.

Frenkel admitted that the "crawling peg" exchange rate system which assumes an annual inflation rate of 8 percent does not correspond to existing reality. However, the policy of the government and the central bank is to bring inflation down to the exchange system's range, rather than change the devaluation rate and thereby declare that we are willing to live with 14.5 percent inflation. [passage omitted]

Head of Interests Office in Morocco Appointed

TA2309154394 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry senior echelon has decided to appoint David Dadon to head Israel's Interests Office in Morocco. Dadon, who served as head of the Foreign Ministry's Israel-Arab Division until recently, has already departed for Morocco.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

King, Israel's Rabin Hold Meeting in al-'Aqabah

JN2909202994 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 Sep 94

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] His majesty the king held talks in al-'Aqabah tonight with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The meeting, which is still in session, is expected to tackle major issues related to the Middle East peace process, particularly the Jordanian-Israeli track.

His majesty's meeting with the Israeli prime minister comes within the framework of the Washington Declaration, which calls for meetings on the highest levels, as well as on the level of specialized committees.

Tonight's meeting is attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is also attended by Israel's chief of staff and its chief negotiator Elyaqim Rubinstein.

As we said earlier, the meeting is still in session, and we'll try to provide you with more details as they come.

Further on Meeting

JN2909205894 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2015 GMT 29 Sep 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] We'll break from international news and return to al-'Aqabah where a meeting is underway now between his majesty the king and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

During tonight's summit, the king and the Israeli prime minister have discussed the issues pending in the negotiations on a peace treaty, including water, boundary, and security. Several issues remain to be resolved on the negotiations of them will continue when talks resume following the return of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan from the United States and the next round of bilateral talks scheduled for October 10th till the 20th [sentence as heard].

It is hoped that in these subsequent negotiations, the resolution of all outstanding issues will result in the achievement of a treaty of peace.

Government 'Differences' Postpone Peace Talks

JN2909170594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 29-30 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Hanadi Saqf-al-Hayt]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources have told AKHIR KHABAR that during their talks, the Jordanians and the Israelis found major differences over some major issues. The sources added that this sharp contradiction is one of the reasons behind the postponing of the round of negotiations which was scheduled to be held yesterday, Wednesday [28 September].

Israel has requested that level of representation be upgraded at the negotiations, claiming that the issues Jordan wants to be discussed seriously necessitate such upgrading.

AKHIR KHABAR has learned that Israel has proposed that its Foreign Ministry under secretary, Ya'aqov Ben-Tzur, lead its delegation.

On the Jordanian side, the sources say that the situation is more difficult and embarrassing in light of the optimistic statements made by members of the negotiating delegation. This confusion has paved the way for the government disagreement, represented by the differences between Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister, and Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, who was excluded from the arena of the peace process development.

Our sources say that minister al-Hasan has tendered his resignation to the prime minister, regardless of the upcoming reshuffle.

The sources expect Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah to assume the Foreign Ministry portfolio and to continue to steer the negotiating delegation from his ministerial position, thus, the government will meet the Israeli demand of upgrading the level of representation at the negotiating table.

Envoy on U.S.-Israeli UN Resolutions Moves

JN2909140694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 30

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Excerpt] 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, has described the U.S. and Israeli attempt to cancel UN resolutions on the Palestine question as a sort of death sentence on, and destruction of the Middle East peace process if the attempt is successful.

In a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR, Abu-'Awdah said the attempt is dangerous because rescinding these resolutions abolishes the substantial issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict such as Jerusalem and what it represents, the settlements, refugees, sovereignty, and the right to self-determination. Abolishing these issues means that we accept the status quo.

Abu-'Awdah added that the chances of this attempt have weakened or diminished because presenting such an issue means that the party presenting it does not want peace, so this party should decide if it wants peace in the region or not because such idea means stripping the Arab side of international legitimacy, which is the most important weapon the Arab side has.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Abu-'Awdah said the issue began as a test balloon by the U.S. representative to the United Nations last August. He added that since he was the head of the Arab group, he took that subject seriously, and he instantly raised it with the official Jordanian and Arab quarters, the Arab League, and other international groups to explain that such issue would destroy the peace process rather than build it.

Abu-'Awdah said Jordan dealt with the subject in accordance with the Jordanian constants and the traditional decisions and positions. [passage omitted]

Editorial: No Headway Without Israeli Pullout

JN3009091694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Sep 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Washington Tripartite Meeting"]

[Text] The U.S. capital is scheduled to host another tripartite meeting on Monday between His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who will discuss a number of issues on the Jordanian-Israeli track, especially territory, boundary, and water issues.

Although the agenda of this tripartite meeting covers a large number of important topics, especially those related to the development of the Jordan Rift Valley, the most important topics from the Jordanian point of view are those related to sovereignty subjects, on top of which is the Jordanian territory occupied in 1967.

Unless Israel announces commitment to total withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territory and unless it publicly accepts the border delineation in accordance with the British mandate lines, and as long as our sovereignty over Jordanian territory is incomplete, it will not be possible for us in Jordan to take one more step toward peace and normal relations.

Hence, we view with extreme interest the upcoming Washington meeting which comes amid Jordanian-Israeli negotiations which have not resulted in a clear Israeli commitment to our sovereignty rights and our share of the Jordan basin waters. We also attach great importance to the participation of the U.S. President in this meeting in view of the responsibilities of the United States as the sponsor of the peace process and its commitment to the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

U.S.-Jordan Debt Forgiveness Agreement Signed

JN2909151894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] An agreement between the governments of Jordan and the United States of America was signed at the Ministry of Finance today to forgive American debts due on Jordan for this year amounting to $220 million. The agreement also permits the waving of other sums totaling around $700 million during the coming two years. The agreement was signed by Minister of Finance Sami Qammuh and the American Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan.

The minister of finance thanked the American people and government on the behalf of the Jordanian people and government and said this agreement will ease the debt burdens on Jordan. He said the agreement will also provide Jordan with hard currency and enable it to utilize the funds allocated for serving the Jordanian debts in development projects. These funds, the minister added, can also be used in the infrastructure projects and contribute in supporting the national economy. Mr. Qammuh said that Jordan has received promises from a number of creditors' countries, such as Britain, Japan, Germany, and France, that they will write off some of Jordan's debts or giving it grants and soft loans this year and next year.

Our correspondent made the following interview with the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Mr. Wesley Egan following the signing of the agreement:

[Begin Egan recording, in progress] ...Excellency. It is, again, a pleasure to join you to sign yet another document in the process of financial and debt cooperation between the United States' Government and the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As I think most of your listeners know, this is the first step in the documentation in a three-phase process of eliminating Jordan's bilateral debt to the United States. The agreement that we signed today will forgive, is the word often used, approximately $220 million in that debt. It's 220 million of approximately 700 million. This is the first of three of those steps.

As you will recall, some months ago President Clinton had said that he couldn't ask other governments to do what he couldn't yet do. And not too long after the trilateral summit in Washington—his majesty the king, the President, and the prime minister of Israel—the United States' Congress provided authorization for this first trench of debt forgiveness. Very shortly after that, the President wrote to the government of Jordan's Paris Club creditors—those holding Jordanian debt—encouraging each of them to do for Jordan what the United States was doing for Jordan. My colleagues, our ambassadors in those capitals, delivered the President's letter. They all had specific points to make in their capitals. I know your emissaries in Jordanian embassies around the world are also involved in discussions with those creditor governments on this same issue.

I have recently asked my colleagues in Washington to provide me with an overall compilation of the responses to the President's request. I haven't received that. I am waiting for it. Obviously, you and I will discuss it when we do get it. The President's initiative in this regard, an unusual initiative I think, was designed to sensitize world leaders and your Paris Club creditors to the extraordinary steps for peace that his majesty the king and the government of Jordan are taking. I recall in the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Rose Garden in late July the President's words were: "The United States' Government will support those who take risks for peace." We are doing our part and we are encouraging our friends and your creditors to do their part. [end recording]

Minister Confers With U.S. Peace Group

JN2909124494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Upon the instructions of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information, met in Washington this morning with the U.S. group The Builders for Peace. He was accompanied by a number of Jordanian officials.

During the meeting, Dr. al-'Anani reviewed the developments in the regional peace process and the prospects for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Jordanian delegation reviewed the government's efforts to develop and modernize the laws and legislation regarding the encouragement of investments. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Engineer Samir Qa'war, minister of transportation; Dr. Ziyad Fariz, adviser to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Dr. Michel Martu, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; and Michel Hamarinah, head of his highness the crown prince's office, as well as several other officials.

It is worth noting that The Builders for Peace is an establishment sponsored and supervised by U.S. Vice President Al Gore. It includes a number of U.S. officials and businessmen who are interested in setting up economic projects in Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Al-Hasan Meets Arab League Head at UN in New York

JN2909152994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at the United Nations yesterday.

During the meeting, the two sides held consultations and coordinated on the Arab foreign ministers' meeting scheduled to be held on 1 October, under the chairmanship of Jordan, in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings.

Al-Hasan also held talks with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali on the Middle East peace process and the latest developments in it. The two sides also discussed the role Jordan could play during its participation in the investment conference scheduled to be held in Morocco late next month, and means of promoting Jordanian-Moroccan relations.

Al-Hasan met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah. They discussed bilateral ties and exchanged views on the topics the Arab foreign ministers will discuss during their next meeting.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and discussed with him bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

During a meeting with Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic, al-Hasan was briefed on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Bosnian minister expressed his appreciation for Jordan's support for the Bosnian people's cause.

Al-Majali Meets Palestinian Official on Awqaf

JN2909145194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office at the Prime Ministry today Fatah Central Committee Member Hakam Bal'awi.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, minister of state for parliamentary and legal affairs; Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, minister of youth and acting minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Palestinian charges d'affaries in Amman.

Discussions dealt with the recent decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers on awqaf [Islamic endowments] and Islamic shrines in the West Bank. Bal'awi welcomed these decisions and said that the Palestinians appreciate and have full confidence in His Majesty King Husayn, his wise leadership, and his eagerness to maintain the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

The prime minister emphasized that Jordan will continue, as usual, to support the Palestinian people and will remain eager to maintain their interests based on its belief in the depth of fraternal relations between the two peoples on the two banks of the immortal river.

The prime minister and Bal'awi emphasized the importance of continuing the peace process and implementing the agreements reached on the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks, which will give strength and momentum to the other tracks to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement in the region.

Following the meeting, Bal'awi said that Jordan and the Palestinians have one objective, and that all that has been said in the media about abnormal relations between the two sides is exaggerated and untrue. He added that Jordan has always been patient, and said His Majesty King Husayn's principled positions on the Palestine question and the Palestinian people are appreciated by the Palestinian people.

Bal'awi stressed that the disengagement decision His Majesty King Husayn announced in 1988 was a daring

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

decision in support of the Palestine question and represented a commitment to the principles and national objectives of this cause. Likewise, the recent decisions adopted by the Jordanian Government on disengagement with Islamic awqaf and shrines in the West Bank are also in support of national Palestinian action. Jordan has always shown that its actions serve the national interests of the Palestinian people.

Tourism Minister Decides Not To Attend Meeting

JN2909111894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Jordanian Minister of Tourism Muhammad al-'Adwan has declined to attend a tripartite meeting, including, in addition to himself, his Egyptian and Israeli counterparts. The meeting was scheduled to be held at the Allenby Bridge.

The Jordanian minister said he did not attend because he did not want to arouse sensitivities on the Palestinian side, whose right it is to supervise the Allenby Bridge.

King Receives Pakistani National Assembly Speaker

JN2909173994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received at the Royal Hashemite Court Pakistani National Assembly Speaker (Yusuf Rida Jilani), who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the means to develop and widen their prospects in various fields to serve the interests of the two friendly countries. They also discussed regional and international issues of common interest.

Moreover, the talks dealt with the ongoing peace process in the region, especially on the Jordanian-Israeli track. His Majesty King Husayn explained Jordan's stand on the peace process. His majesty reiterated the Jordanian constants in this regard and the need to realize a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace that guarantees stability and launches potentials, and whose fruits can be enjoyed by all.

The meeting was attended by House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri and the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan.

Malaysian Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

JN2909213294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 Sep 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed arrived in Amman at the head of an economic delegation on an official visit lasting several days. He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, the personal representative of his majesty the king; the chief chamberlain; and other officials.

The Malaysian prime minister will meet his majesty the king and other Jordanian officials for talks on Jordanian-Malaysian ties and economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Preventive Measures Taken Against Plague

JN2909191394 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Amman, 29 Sep (PETRA)—The Ministry of Health has taken a number of precautionary measures to prevent anybody carrying the plague from entering the kingdom. These measures are aimed at protecting the citizens' lives and preventing the local spread of this disease.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Minister of Health Dr. 'Arif al-Batayinah said that these measures include the stationing of medical teams at border points to observe those arriving in the country and to examine those coming from India who are suspected of carrying the disease. Other measures include the stationing of a medical team at Queen 'Alia International Airport to receive and medically examine transit passengers and place them under observation until their departure.

Al-Batayinah added that one of these measures is to give tetracycline capsules to all those arriving from plague-stricken areas as a precautionary treatment.

He said that these measures also include inspecting ships arriving at the Port of al-'Aqabah. The crews and passengers of these ships are examined and observed. Moreover, the ships and their cargo, as well as the piers, are sprayed with pesticides and checks are made to ensure there are no rats or insects carrying the plague, especially flies, on board these ships. If the ship's crew produces a health certificate declaring that the ship is free of rats and insects before its arrival to the next port, then it will be exempted from the pesticide spraying and will only have to undergo inspection by the Jordanian medical teams. [passage omitted]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Al-Hirawi Answers BBC Listeners' Questions

NC2909193094

[Editorial Report] Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1508 GMT on 29 September carries a 52-minute live telephone interview with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi from the Presidential Palace in B'abda by Madihah al-Midfa'i, a BBC Arabic service broadcaster in London. During the interview, several listeners from various parts of the world address their questions directly by phone to President al-Hirawi. The interview is carried simultaneously on the BBC Arabic service.

After al-Hirawi and al-Midfa'i exchange courtesies and greetings, listener Sa'ib Diyab from Beirut asks President al-Hirawi why he did not attend the UN General Assembly meetings in New York this year. Al-Hirawi says: It is not customary for a head of state to chair his country's delegation to UN meetings every year. He mentions that he chaired the Lebanese delegation in 1991 but this year decided not go because "there was nothing new" to justify his going to New York and delivering Lebanon's address. Therefore, he adds, it was natural that the delegation should be headed by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Al-Hirawi mentions that Buwayz is expected to hold a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 30 September.

Al-Midfa'i suggests the previous question might belong within the framework of media reports that Lebanese-U.S. relations are passing through "a phase in which there is a lack of amity," because of what Lebanon considers to be "abnormal treatment" of it by the U.S. Administration. She asks al-Hirawi to "shed light on the story of alienation, if there is any, between Washington and Beirut." Al- Hirawi says: "There is no alienation. I regret that the free press in Lebanon and elsewhere have been raising this issue and reiterating that there is alienation. There is no alienation in U.S.-Lebanese relations."

Listener 'Ali Baydun from Cyprus addresses the following question to President al-Hirawi: "Mr. President, while hundreds of Lebanese political prisoners have been languishing in Syrian jails for years without trial—some of them over 10 years—we notice that for five years now the Lebanese intelligence services have been kidnaping Lebanese citizens and handing them over to the Syrian intelligence services in Damascus. The last group of kidnapped Lebanese was handed over 10 days ago. How do you explain this, given your talk of 'democracy, freedom, pluralism, security, and safety' for the Lebanese?" Al-Hirawi answers: "I hope we will get from you a list of the names you speak of so that I can check things out with sister Syria. I am certain that my intercession will favor them if they are in Syrian prisons. As for the abduction of some people 10 days ago, you know more about this than the head of state." Baydun replies: "Mr. President, I have a list of names. It's not all the names but I do have a list of some names." Al-Hirawi answers: "You can send me the list by post."

Listener Michel Khuri from Lebanon asks why the Lebanese people are not sounded out in a referendum on the treaties Lebanon has signed with other states, including the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination with Syria and the agreement on the sharing of the Orontes River water with Syria. Al-Hirawi says that under the Lebanese Constitution, treaties are sent to the Lebanese Parliament for approval; the Lebanese Government does not exchange the instruments of these treaties with any government unless they are approved by parliament. He also says that the Lebanese Constitution does not stipulate a referendum on every issue.

Answering a question from listener Talib Husayn Iskandar from Algeria on Israel's presence in south Lebanon and the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace talks, al-Hirawi says he does not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of Arab states that have signed separate peace deals with Israel. But these separate deals are not in the interest of all the Arabs, he concedes, adding: "Therefore Lebanon adheres to its stance. Lebanon will sign no peace treaty unless all the Arab states have signed it." Elaborating on this subject, al- Midfa'i asks al-Hirawi to comment on an Israeli proposal that Lebanon stop resistance operations for six months as a testing period, after which negotiations will start. She further asks whether Lebanon can stop the resistance before the Israeli withdrawal starts. Al-Hirawi answers: "I wish the resistance was active on every Arab front. Resistance in Lebanon will not stop, because it is the right of the Lebanese people to resist occupation. But if Israel declares frankly and clearly that it is prepared to withdraw its army from Lebanon inside six months, the head of state can then address the Lebanese people frankly and tell the resistance in Lebanon to stop because we have achieved our goal. Asking us to stop before we receive a positive and guaranteed promise from the United States and Russia, which invited us to the [Madrid peace] conference, is not the way for that to happen in Lebanon."

Listener Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali, a Saudi who lives in Eritrea, asks Al-Hirawi whether the Lebanese Government is a "puppet government for Syria" that cannot make any decision without consulting the Syrian Government. Al-Hirawi says: "Lebanon is a free and independent country. It has a treaty with Syria. It is a brother to every Arab state. What you have said, dear brother, is not true at all." The program concludes at 1600 GMT.

SLA Demolishes House Used by 'Terrorists'

NC3009105694 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Our military correspondent has reported that the night before last a South Lebanese Army [SLA] force demolished a house in Bra'shit that was used by terrorists as a base for their attacks on the border area. The correspondent added that the SLA soldiers blew up the house after ascertaining that there were no civilians in

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

the adjacent areas to ensure their safety from the debris caused by the explosion. The SLA soldiers then returned safely to base.

Israeli Shelling of Southern Villages Continues

NC3009064094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south reported this morning that the Israeli occupation forces continued their attacks on the southern villages and towns last night, particularly the villages in Iqlim al-Taffuh. He said the Israeli shelling targeted the outskirts of Habbush, the al-Nabʻ al-Safi river basin, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, al-Luwayzah, Mlikh, the outskirts of Jarju', Mazra'at 'Aqmatah, Sujud, and Jabal al-Rafi'. Several shells also fell on the main road between Habbush and 'Arab Salim. The shelling lasted until the early hours of dawn and was accompanied with 12.7-mm machine-gun fire.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Participants in Cairo Meeting Said 'Unofficial'

JN2909145494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo]

[Excerpt] The Syrian participants in the regional meeting sponsored by the American Travel Agencies Association in the Middle East have stated that their participation is in an unofficial capacity as owners of tourism companies in Damascus and that they are not an official government delegation.

The participants, Khalil Muhammad Khalil, Sharif al-Farm, and a third who declined to be named, refused to give any statements on their participation in spite of Syria's official stand of not attending any regional meetings that Israel attends.

Syrian diplomatic sources in Cairo have told Radio Monte Carlo that Damascus has not sent any representatives or official delegation on behalf of Syria to the meeting. [passage omitted]

Press Rejects 'Secret' Talks With Israel

JN2909152094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH comments editorially on Israel's disinformation campaigns against Syria which seeks to distort its stands. It says: An observer of the atmosphere surrounding the efforts being exerted to activate the peace process and save it from the current stalemate finds many indications of Israel's isolation and dilemmas as a result of its rejection of international legitimacy and its adherence to the policy of partial solutions.

AL-BA'TH says that Israel's anti-Syria disinformation campaigns escalate every time a U.S. or Western envoy arrives on a new tour of the region. The aim of those campaigns is to influence the results of those tours and to imply that Syria is about to offer concessions and go back on its principled and constant stands on the peace process. The paper says: If Syria wanted to respond to those campaigns, it would have no trouble finding all the propaganda fabricated by Israel it would need. However, thanks to its explicit and public stand, Syria does not need to respond to Israeli allegations, because its policy is public, with no secrets or dark passages.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Syria does not fear the light. Therefore, it does not need to go into dark corridors, as others did, to arrive at partial and defective solutions. Syria is working for a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace based on a clear initiative that accepts no interpretation. He who seeks such a noble objective does not care to respond to campaigns which the public knows are far from honest. Nor can he be affected by rumors which cannot undermine his steadfast position defending the Arab nation's rights.

Commenting on the peace process and the contradictions governing Israel's behavior, AL-THAWRAH says: Israeli officials' numerous contradictory statements on the Golan give rise to questions about the future of the peace process, which has been stalemated by Israel. Observers following the developments of the peace process have realized that Israel does not conceal the contradictions governing its behavior and public statements. In fact, it reveals a great deal about its strategy which has always sought to shirk the bases of the Madrid conference and to ignore the international resolutions, which constitute the basis of the bilateral talks.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Without having to recall the details of Israeli stands at all junctures of the peace process, it seems evident that Israel rejects total withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, al-Biqa' al-Gharbi, and the occupied Arab territories. Therefore, it is maneuvering to serve this objective, in accordance with which the very foundation of the peace process must be undermined by opting for the course of secret negotiations as a substitute to public talks.

AL-THAWRAH says that the road to peace is known and the bases of peace are clear. Syria is unambiguously committed to the implementation of the resolutions of the international community. Contrary to Israel, Syria is absolutely serious about achieving a just, comprehensive peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: When Israel gives up its capricious and bargaining policy, it will find that the road to peace is open. The real beginning is a commitment to total withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi. Anything else is nothing but a waste of time and effort.

Press Criticizes Israeli Policies on Peace

JN3009095094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says the whole world is unanimous in its belief that Syria has done its best to render the peace process a success since its inception.

The paper indicates that at the Geneva summit, U.S. President Bill Clinton clearly expressed his conviction that the Syrian position was serious. Clinton stated that the Syrian demands concerning the peace process are completely legitimate, particularly regarding full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This is because only such withdrawal will achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH notes the Arab, regional, and international affirmations that real peace cannot be achieved without

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Syria and Lebanon. Discussing Israeli maneuvering, the paper says: If such a policy continues, it will be impossible to serve the peace process because it is directed against it. For many months, there has been a clear contradiction in the Israeli positions on the peace process, specifically on withdrawal from the Golan. Some Israeli officials acknowledge that real peace cannot be achieved without Syria and without full withdrawal from the Golan. Then, the next day other Israeli officials will make statements to the contrary.

AL-BA'TH adds: The way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, which will provide regional security and stability, is very clear, especially since the entire international community approved the principles and bases of the peace process and acknowledged that circumventing them is actually a waste of time and, consequently, an attempt to evade the requisites of the desired real peace.

No doubt, it is time for Israel to realize that its policies are not only exposed but also rejected, and that they will continue to be rejected unless Israel responds to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: As everyone knows, Syria has not changed its positions since the peace process began. Syria said it supports full peace in return for full withdrawal. This position is in full agreement with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Discussing the same issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is no longer a secret that Yitzhaq Rabin's government responds to the positive Syrian position on the peace process with a negative approach that is about to strangle the U.S. peace initiative and dash the hope for the success of the U.S. efforts designed to promote this process and achieve its objective.

AL-THAWRAH notes that whenever Syria showed more interest in a just and comprehensive peace and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, Israel showed more intransigence, rejected the bases of the peace process, and made further efforts to waste the opportunity to promote the peace process and undermine the positive atmosphere created by the Syrian positions. This was evident in Washington's bilateral talks. It was also evident after the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. The whole world lauded President Hafiz al-Asad's positive positions on the desired just and comprehensive peace.

The paper adds: The negative Israeli position was also evident in the wake of the historic speech which President Hafiz al-Asad delivered at the opening session of the sixth [Syrian] legislative term. In this speech, his excellency explained the consistent and principled Syrian positions on the peace process, and reiterated Syria's adherence to international legitimacy and to the implementation of its resolutions as the way to peace. He also asserted that Syria does not act according to the will of others or in the interest of anyone else. Syria serves only its national and pan-Arab interests. Moreover, Syria does not conceal anything, and works clearly in broad daylight. It also rejects secret and inequitable deals, as well as anything that sells out the territories and bargains on [Arab] rights.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel is the only party obstructing peace, and the only party failing to abide by the bases of the peace process. Those who began the peace initiative established it on the land-for-peace formula.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH discusses the Israeli attempts to annul the international resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It says: Now that the meetings of the UN General Assembly's 49th session have begun, Israel and its protectors are making painstaking efforts to annul the international resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, Jerusalem, the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH notes that these efforts are taking the form of political maneuvers based on falsehoods and feeble pretexts which involve boasting of peace and using the peace process as a cover to undermine the international credibility and deprive the Arab negotiators of all bargaining chips and of the advantage of exploiting the world balances of power. Along with their charters, resolutions, and specialized organizations, these balances of power used to constitute a safety valve, a guarantee to restore the usurped rights, and a stumbling block against the schemes of annexation and Judaization.

The paper asserts that any attempt to annul the resolutions of international legitimacy before achieving a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts and before fully implementing these resolutions—which provide for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories—will not serve peace; it will only support the aggressor and encourage him to persist in the policy of intransigence, rejection, and adherence to occupation.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: In any case, our rights cannot be disavowed by a resolution of any kind. No force on earth can impose on us an incomplete peace that does not regain all national and pan-Arab rights.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Afghanistan

Factional Fighting Reported for 27-29 Sep

Militias Shell Kabul

LD2809165094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militias fired again today 19 rockets and shells on Kabul city. The Kabul garrison reports that as a result of these rockets, one person was martyred and seven others were injured.

The rockets fired today also caused material losses.

Heavy-Weapons Fire in Kabul

LD2809165694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Kabul is still the scene of exchange of heavy-weapons fire between rival groups. According to a Central News Unit report, hospital sources in Kabul report that more than 100 shells, mortars, and rockets fired since yesterday morning have resulted in the killing of more than 58 people and wounding of 230. At the same time, fighting in west Kabul, especially around the university and the Dasht-e Barchi, is raging and the people in that area have been besieged by the rival forces for the 15th day running and have been under fire of various types of weaponry.

Shelling Kills 3 in Kabul

LD2909155094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia fired last night and today rockets and mortar-shells on the residential houses of Kabul citizens.

The Kabul garrison command reports that the militia fired 25 rockets and mortar-shells from the east and southeastern directions at the residential houses of the persecuted people of Kabul. As a result of these rockets, three innocent citizens of Kabul were martyred and another 10 people were injured.

As a result of the rockets, heavy material damages were also incurred, in addition to the loss of life.

250 Militiamen Captured in Konduz

LD2909191094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] In the course of today's clashes, which took place in Konduz between the Mojahedin and the Golboddin-Dostam militias, 250 militiamen were captured.

A security source reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that as a result of today's fighting between the Islamic Army of Afghanistan and the atheist and hypocrite Golboddin-Dostam militias that took place in the surroundings of Konduz Province, 250 militiamen were captured.

(Berdikhoda), who was deputy commander of Dostam's 18th Division, is among those captured.

During today's fighting, the Mojahedin seized five tanks, one BM-21 set, and four mortars, all intact. Two enemy tanks were set ablaze by rockets fired by the Mojahedin. The fighting that flared up yesterday between the Konduz Mojahedin and the corrupt and plundering Golboddin-Dostam-Karmal militias, is still continuing.

Yesterday too, the Mojahedin captured 100 militiamen and seized as booty five [word indistinct] and 22 tanks.

Militia Said Defeated in Western Kabul

LD2909190294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] A militia attack, launched from Char Qala in the direction of Dasht-e Barchi, has been defeated.

Following the defeat of the Golboddin-Dostam militias (in the western areas of Kabul), the defeated militias, led by the plundering and corrupt men of Mazari, launched an attack today from the direction of Char Qala, in order to kill the persecuted people of Dasht-e Barchi and plunder their property.

Golboddin, in order to [words indistinct], forced the oppressor Kandahari, Zardad, and Dostam militias to embark on such an attack and directly commanded this attack. The treacherous Mazari directed the oppressor militias to plunder and kill the people of Dasht-e Barchi. This attack was foiled by the resistance of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] and Harakat-e Eslami Afghanistan [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan]. The militias then fled after leaving behind several dead bodies.

Kabul Mayor Requests Assistance From UN, World

LD2809184394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The Kabul mayor has asked the United Nations and the world at large to send urgent humanitarian assistance to the misery-stricken people of Kabul.

In a message addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the mayor of Kabul says: The situation in Kabul is serious as a result of foreign interference and rocket attacks [words indistinct] Thousands of citizens have been maimed. A large number of people are addicted to drugs.

The message asks the UN secretary general and the international community [words indistinct] to pay serious attention to the citizens of Kabul, and to assist the people of Kabul by sending [words indistinct] via air transport.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

ICRC Asks Warring Sides Not To Attack Hospitals

LD2809193594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Announcement by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]:

The ICRC assists all those medical buildings located in Kabul and in the surrounding areas under the difficult circumstances resulting from the fighting.

The hospitals and clinics extend medical treatment to all wounded in the fighting without consideration of their nationality, religion, and political affiliation. During the fighting, respect these medical buildings. Do not attack these centers, and do not set up military posts near them, so that these installations can be saved from danger.

The ICRC never supports any side. The ICRC extends assistance without discrimination to all who have suffered from the fighting, whether they are civilians or military men.

India

Delhi Schools Close; Officials Reassure Investors

BK3009035794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] India has urged foreign investors not to worry over incidents of plague in some parts of the country and assured them that every possible measure is under way to tackle the situation. The minister for petroleum and natural gas, Captain Satish Sharma, and the Indian high commissioner, Mr. L.M. Singhvi, said in London that some countries were overreacting to the situation.

Travel trade sources say that the cancellation of flights to and from India by the Gulf countries will not adversely affect tourist season beginning tomorrow. An estimated 2.2 million tourists, mostly from Europe, Britain, and America, are expected to visit the country during the next six months.

In Delhi, all schools and cinema halls have been closed till the 15th of next month as a precautionary measure. The Delhi government has ordered cancellation of leaves for all civic staff involved in cleanliness of the metropolis. Contract laborers have been hired at selected areas for the cleaning operations.

Gujarat Minister: Plague '100% Under Control'

BK2909164094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Top health officials from the center and the plague-affected states have said that the entire administrative machinery is fully geared up to contain the epidemic within two to three weeks. The WHO representative in India, Dr. Shah, agreed with their view.

The union cabinet secretary reviewed the situation at a high-level meeting in New Delhi this afternoon. Later, briefing reporters, the official spokesman said the states have launched intensive cleanliness drives and mounted medical surveillance to check the incidents of plague. Around 1,500 suspected cases have been reported so far and all of them are being given antiplague medicines as a measure of abundant precaution. The spokesman said that there is no cause of worry about the availability of tetracycline; 30 million capsules are available in stock and the production is keeping pace with the demand. The Customs authorities have also released 28 tons of confiscated tetracycline lying with them.

The union health secretary, Mr. M.S. Dayal, has regretted the overreaction with the country and abroad. Following reports about suspension of flights to India by some airlines, both Air India and Indian Airlines have made special arrangements for screening of passengers at Delhi, Bombay, and Calcutta. The Air India chief, Captain Mathur, told our Bombay correspondent that no person suspected of having any symptoms of plague is allowed on any outgoing flights.

The union minister of state for health, Dr. C. Silvera, today visited the plague-hit areas of Surat city and reviewed the various steps taken to contain the disease.

Our correspondent reports that there has been no deaths during the past 36 hours even as some more suspected cases have been reported from Surat city. The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chabildas Mehta, told him that the situation is 100 percent under control. He said a rapid action plan has been taken up to detect cases and to keep the city clean.

In the capital, Delhi, only 18 cases are said to be positive to plague. The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has appealed to the people and the media to cooperate with the administration in tackling the situation. The director of the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta, Dr. Manish Chakravorty, has said that blood samples of 56 suspected cases in the state have been examined so far and none of them have been found to be positive. The authorities have mounted a strict vigil to screen persons coming from Surat to the state.

Ordinance Promulgated To Regulate Cable Television

BK3009031394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance today to regulate cable television in the country. The ordinance provides for registration of cable operators and restricts their foreign equity to 49 percent. The other highlight of the ordinance is that it prescribes compulsory transmission of the Doordarshan [Indian television] satellite channels. Operation of nonregistered cable network is an offense punishable by fine as well as imprisonment. The ordinance also empowers a competent

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

authority to prohibit transmission of certain programs in public interest. The existing cable operators will have to register themselves within three months.

Kashmiri Leader Abdullah Escapes Rocket Attack

BK3009012894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and President of the National Conference Dr. Farooq Abdullah had a narrow escape when a rocket was fired by Kashmiri militants toward his residence in Srinagar yesterday.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has expressed concern as well as his feeling of relief that Dr. Farooq Abdullah escaped a rocket attack. Mr. Rao said it is very clear that the militants are targeting the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir as part of their design.

Iran

Velayati Meets Foreign Leaders at UN in New York

Meets Jordan's al-Hasan, Foreign Ministers

LD2909115994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] On the sideline of the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met separately with his counterparts from Malaysia, Lithuania, Ireland, and Jordan yesterday evening.

At the meetings between Mr. Velayati and the Irish and Lithuanian foreign ministers, the expansion of bilateral ties and political, regional, and international issues were discussed.

During their talks, the foreign ministers of Malaysia and Iran expressed the concern of their respective countries over obstacles created to the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia.

At a meeting between Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordan's minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mr. Velayati, political issues of the region and bilateral relations were discussed.

Meets Egyptian, Afghan Counterparts

LD2909203694 Tehran IRNA in English 2027 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations HQ (New York), 29 Sep (IRNA)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday met his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa. In their talks the two foreign ministers agreed that Muslim states should offer a firmer support for the aggressed Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The two who met on the sidelines of the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly, criticized the U.N. decision last Friday [23 September] to commute the economic sanctions against Belgrade.

Velayati said the world community should support the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina or allow them to defend themselves.

They also reviewed the ways and means for unifiying the position of Muslim states for materializing the decisions taken by foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in Islamabad last month.

The Egyptian foreign minister said Iran's presence at the world population and development conference in Cairo earlier this month had been very fruitful.

In another meeting here today the Iranian foreign minister met the Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibullah Lafrani.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, Velayati told the Afghan official that the warring factions in Afghanistan would do well to engage in talks under the surveillance of the OIC which measure, he said, would bring peace and stability to Afghanistan.

Meets Armenian President

NC3009102094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Dr. Velayati met with Armenian President Levon Ter- Petrosyan last evening on the sidelines of the 49th UN General Assembly session.

According to the Central News Unit in New York, during this meeting Dr. Velayati stressed our country's stance on the cessation of the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territory.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran since the outbreak of the war in Nagorno- Karabakh.

Dr. Velayati also met the foreign ministers of Egypt, South Africa, Mexico, Brunei, Lithuania, and Afghanistan. According to this report, the foreign ministers of Iran and Egypt stressed the need for strengthening the stances of Islamic countries on the plight of the Bosnian Muslims.

Meets Libyan Counterpart, Tajik President

LD3009113294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] In New York yesterday evening, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting, our Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met separately with the president of Tajikistan, the secretary general of the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and the foreign ministers of Uruguay and Libya.

In his meeting with our country's foreign minister, the president of Tajikistan praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts for the establishment of peace in Tajikistan.

In the meeting between ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid and Mr. Velayati, issues pertaining to the world of Islam, particularly the crisis in Afghanistan, were discussed and reviewed.

Daily on U.S. Allegations Against Nuclear Program

NC3009105294 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 94 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. and Zionist States Should Be on the Docket"]

[Text] They say when the U.S. pilot dropped the A-bomb on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, it was past midnight in Washington, D.C. The phone rang next to President Harry S. Truman's bed. The president awoke and picked up the receiver. Someone on the other end of the line informed the old man in the White House that they had just dropped the Bomb; Nagasaki was history.

It is also said that, as a sequel to this historic phone call, Truman got out of his bed, walked to the refrigerator, drank a cup of milk, and went back to bed, soundly sleeping throughout the night-the same night in which hundreds of thousands of Japanese bodies sizzled with the heat from the inferno that Mr. Truman's A-bomb had unleashed on them.

Whatever the truth of this story, it is a good metaphor for the lack of remorse on the part of a power that has never known the meaning of conscience. This power usurped the land from the Indians and made a slave of Africans in order to amass wealth. Like most of its Bible-thumping preachers who speak of the Kingdom of God despite their own not-so-holy dalliances, the United States, the very power which destroyed hundreds of thousands of lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, feels no compunction in criticizing Iran for what the U.S. claims is Iran's program for developing nuclear weapons.

U.S. hypocrisy becomes evident when we consider that nowhere in the annals of U.S. relations with the Zionist entity has Washington dared to speak against the sinister nuclear program that Tel Aviv has pursued.

The Zionist lobby is so strong in the U.S. that it has been said that the Zionist state is the tail that wags the dog.

Every time any Arab country, even the most conservative, wants to buy any advanced American weaponry, the Zionist lobby, with their pals-on-the-take in the Democratic Party, raises such hell in the U.S. that the finalizing of the military contracts with Arabs is postponed, even through the contracts would mean providing bread and butter to thousands of jobless Americans.

To please the Zionist lobby, American politicians are prepared to disillusion their Arab friends and anger their jobless constituency. We should not be shocked when we see that American politicians are even ready to question the decree by the respected and the credible International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Iran's nuclear facilities are used only for peaceful purpose.

The U.S. and the Zionist regime are using the issue of Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program as a smokescreen. The U.S. has stockpiled so many nuclear warheads that it is capable of blowing up the planet on which we live.

The Zionist regime, too, has stockpiled nuclear weapons and has consistently refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Zionist state should be considered a pariah since it has never allowed any internationally recognized body to check its nuclear facilities.

On the contrary, Iran has not only allowed the IAEA to check its nuclear facilities on a regular basis, but it has spearheaded efforts to declare the Middle East a Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone. As a matter of fact, the recent IAEA general conference in Vienna adopted a resolution to declare the Middle East a Nuclear-Weapons- Free-Zone.

Iran's record speaks for itself. The Islamic Republic has shown its goodwill and fair-minded people believe that Iran is not to blame for any lack of cooperation with international agencies. It is the U.S., the country which has used nuclear weapons twice against innocent civilians, and the Zionist regime, the country which has kept its nuclear program a secret, which should be on the docket.

UN Plan To Send Experts to Tajikistan Praised

NC2909113494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has announced to the Security Council that he is ready to send a team of experts to Tajikistan. This action comes in the wake of the letter written by our Foreign Minister, Dr. Velayati, to the UN secretary general a week ago.

In the letter by our foreign minister, the Security Council and the secretary general were asked to follow up on the agreement signed recently in Tehran between the emissaries of the Tajik Government and opposition in the presence of the representatives of Russia and the United Nations and to take the necessary steps in this regard.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The dispatch of a UN team of experts to Tajikistan can pave the way for subsequent accords at the Islamabad session.

Even though the Tehran agreement envisages durable peace in Tajikistan by means of a short term cease-fire and the exchange of political prisoners and POWs between the government and the opposition as a precursor, this can only be ensured by the UN peace observers who are to be stationed on the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan and probably in some other areas. Therefore, in the event of any delay in this regard, it is possible that certain elements may indulge in provocations to foment unrest and once again the cease-fire would be violated.

In the past few days, such violations have been witnessed in the form of scattered clashes in some parts of Tajikistan. It was for this purpose that shortly after the signing of the Tehran agreement our foreign minister requested the secretary general to take swift measures for the reinforcement of this agreement. Now the secretary general has deemed that the obligations of the delegation to be dispatched to Tajikistan are to be based on the following: an appraisal of the possibility of deploying UN observers and a report on the modus operandi and the supervisory mechanism [preceding word in English] over the structure of the observer forces and the expenses for these operations.

The need for speedy UN action, especially from the Security Council and the secretary general, should once again be emphasized in order to capitalize on the current favorable momentum. The plan to deploy peace observers to ensure that the peace trend remains uninterrupted in Tajikistan should be implemented.

Prospects of Relations With Egypt Assessed

NC2409202394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Sep 94 p 15

[Commentary by Sadeq Seyyed Hasani: "'Relations With Egypt' and Our Actual Stance"]

[Text] In the interview with LE FIGARO, we once again witnessed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's worthy and principled perspective regarding issues pertaining to the region and the Islamic world. We saw that he superbly propounded our system's principled stance from a position of strength as regards our foreign policy.

Most notable were his remarks regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's lack of any inclination to forge ties with the United States, Israel, and Egypt. Mention of Egypt alongside the United States and the Zionist regime was a source of immense amazement for that clique of political pleasure-seekers who want broader relations with the Mubarak regime at any cost. It also indicated the completely overt reality based on the unanimity and convergence of the Camp David- style Mubarak regime with the Archsatan and the despotic Zionist regime.

Murmurings of compromise with Egypt, which have only recently become audible in pleasure-seeking circles, stem from a lack of comprehension of the political position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and in the Islamic world. It is quite understandable that whenever some foreign policy officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran express the inclination to forge ties with Egypt, the Camp David officials put forth their terms and conditions and seek to extort political concessions. Various propagandist ploys of different kinds and the whipping up of an atmosphere by the media to attain political objectives and to capitalize on the current situation are the norm. Unfortunately, our echelons' lack of coordination in declaring Iran's position on relations with Egypt fuels this situation even further.

It is a source of optimism that with the categorical stance voiced by the president, which stems from his realistic perception of international issues, we will not hear any irresponsible remarks, especially on relations with the regime ruling Egypt.

An important point is that the remarks by our president are in fact a message to the policy makers of the Islamic system so that they tackle the issue vigilantly in their future approach. This overt posture will certainly elicit a reaction from the Egyptian side and it is imperative that a preemptive stance be adopted against it.

In this regard, in addition to the usual defensive tactics, the control and restrictions on the movements of diplomats in the office to safeguard the interests of Iran in Cairo will presumably be tightened. Therefore, it would be appropriate that there should be a reciprocal reappraisal of the extensive moves and visits by the Egyptian side, which unfortunately have been quite frequent recently, and were even mentioned by the press.

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that we should use this opportunity to expand the popular bonds between Muslim countries that are certain to sustain blows from the Archsatan, the despotic Zionist regime, and the Camp David-style Egyptian regime. With our eyes open, we should tread a path which will be a harbinger of the grace of God and the glory of the Muslim people against the infidel tyrants.

Paper Compares Position of King Fahd to Shah's

LD2909164694 Tehran IRNA in English 1156 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, 29 Sep (IRNA)—A morning English language daily here Thursday commented on imminent fall of the King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, saying "the end is clear, history repeats itself, final victory belongs to the people," while comparing his condition to that of the shah of Iran.

As a first phase of its plan, through a disinformation campaign, the West presented the Islamic Republic as a potential danger to the rulers of the region, paraticularly to the Saudi royal family, who in the past have flushed

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

money, mostly in poor Islamic countries, "to woo the innocent and ignorant," the 'TEHRAN TIMES' said in its editorial.

While referring to the fact that the West has plundered the public money in Saudi Arabia, the daily said that the more the West plundered the national wealth of the kingdom, the faster became the pace of opposition to the Saudi rulers.

Opponents of the Saudi regime are aware of the deals made with fat commissions sent to secret accounts, added the daily which noted Saudi Arabia is currently largest customer of British made armament.

It referred to a recent statement released by one of the opposition leaders in the United Kingdom, which disclosed that some 10,000 U.S. soldiers and 30,000 civilians with military duties were based in Saudi Arabia and compared it with the time when some 50,000 U.S. soldiers were present in Iran before the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Saudi people wanted nothing but a democratic government in which neither Americans nor Britons, but common people have their say, said the paper.

In the footsteps of the shah, the Saudi king is not ready to surrender power, a power which according to the paper was usurped by his ancestors.

Commentary Praises Tehran's Efforts in Afghan Mediation

LD2509134294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] After 11 days of heavy fighting, the two warring Afghan groups in west and south-west Kabul eventually agreed on a cease- fire in the area. The establishment of the cease-fire came after mediation by the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Kabul between the warring groups. Despite the ending of the fighting in west Kabul, clashes between other rival Afghan groups in other areas of Afghanistan are still raging. Unfortunately, the casualty figures relating to civilians during those clashes are high and at the moment there is no sign of an end to the war between the supporters of Borhanoddin Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar in the important areas of that country. Nevertheless, the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts—as the main mediator in the current fighting—are still continuing to establish cease-fire between other rival groups and assist the war-stricken people of Kabul.

It is clear that our country, because of its Islamic stances and because it borders Afghanistan, cannot accept the continuation of the chaotic situation in that country and naturally seeks an early end to the fighting and the establishment of a lasting peace so that the Muslim people of Afghanistan can embark on the reconstruction of their country in peace.

According to political observers, although the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue such efforts, the main responsibility falls on the leaders of those parties who think of monopolizing power. The safeguarding of the territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan must be attended to by all groups as an inviolable principle. Any group ignoring that reality is doomed to failure. Undoubtedly, this is a crucial issue which is a must for the peace and stability of the region and no regional state can allow its national interests to be affected by the Afghan groups' bid to power. [sentence as heard]

In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts for establishing a final cease-fire are continuing when many of the international forums are keeping silent in the face of the current fighting in Afghanistan—clashes which acquire new dimensions every day. Observers believe that if those organizations and international forums do not at least act swiftly in dealing with the wounded and refugees of this war, another human catastrophe in Afghanistan cannot be avoided.

Official Says No Direct Japanese Investment

LD2509105294 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, 25 Sep (IRNA)—Japan has made no direct investment in iran in the post-revolution era, an official at Economic Affairs and Finance Ministry announced here Sunday.

Director general of foreign investment department of the Ministry Ahmad Mortazavi made the remark regarding a report by Japan's External Trade Relations Organization (JETRO) claiming that most of its foreign investments in the Middle East had been made in Iran in the fiscal year 1992.

Rejecting the report in a telephone contact with IRNA, the official noted that the source for the figures has not been mentioned in JETRO's report.

JETRO has claimed that Japan's direct investment in Iran totaled dlrs. 378 million in the fiscal year 1992 adding that the total Japanese investments in Iran amounted to dlrs. 1.385 billion.

Meanwhile, JETRO officials when contacted by IRNA in Tokyo to comment over Japan's investment projects in Iran said that in view of JETRO information on investment projects were not publishable.

Pakistan

Spokesman Comments on Butrus-Ghali Report on Kashmir

BK3009013294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Pakistan has made it clear that a just and durable settlement of the Kashmir issue is possible only on the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

basis of the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while commenting on the report by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to the General Assembly. He said the UN chief has underlined and recognized the seriousness of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He also emphasized the need for an early and amicable settlement of the Kashmir question. Referring to the UN chief's appeal to resolve the dispute through negotiations between Pakistan and India, the spokesman said that we have repeatedly urged India to take steps to create favorable conditions for holding talks to resolve the dispute. He said that India has not only failed to take necessary steps to improve the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir, but it has instead further intensified its oppression there.

Use of Transit Route With Uzbekistan Agreed

BK3009095594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to use Samarkand-Termez-Mazar-e Sharif-Herat-Chaman-Karachi Road for transit trade in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] region. The two countries decided that caravans will start passing through this route on experimental basis as early as possible. The Pakistan delegation at the talks in Tashkent was led by the interior minister, Major General, retired, Nasirullah Babar, while the Uzbek side was led by the deputy prime minister, Mr. Rustam Yunusov. They were of the view that Pakistan-Uzbek trade links would have pleasant effect on the economy of the region.

Indian 'Agent' Arrested Outside of Karachi Consulate

BK2909141294 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Sep 94 pp 8, 7

[Text] Islamabad (APP)—A Pakistani national working as an agent for the Indian secret agency, the Research and Analysis Wing [RAW], has been arrested in Karachi. According to the details, a Pakistani secret agency arrested the agent on 26 September as he was coming out of the Indian Consulate. The man had been under surveillance by the Pakistani agency for a long time. During a search, a large amount of currency was seized from him. Under preliminary interrogation he confessed he had been working for RAW for several years. He had direct contact with the Indian Consulate General, during which he passed sensitive information to the consul general. Citing the names of J.J. Singh and A.K. Malik, the man said he had been providing information to them as well. The names of a number of people who have been working for RAW were disclosed during the interrogation; many of them have been arrested in light of the information given by the arrested agent.

It may be recalled that J.J. Singh, who was the local chief of RAW in Karachi, was involved in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status. He was declared persona non grata for being involved in activities contradictory to Pakistan's existence and security and was deported last month. Investigations are continuing and more information is awaited.

Opposition Rallies Mark Peaceful Protest Day

BK3009101494 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad: The Nawaz-led opposition peacefully observed its much trumpeted protest day Thursday [29 September] by taking out processions and holding public rallies throughout the country.

Unlike the PML-N's [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz faction] strike of 20 September, which was marked by sporadic violence, Thursday's protest day remained peaceful with no undesirable incident reported in any part of the country.

The speakers in rallies condemned President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for their 'anti-state' policies. The recent U.S. pledge to invest $4 billion in Pakistan's energy sector was the new addition in the opposition's complaint register. The speakers vowed to continue the rallies till the ouster of the Benazir government.

President PML-N Nawaz Sharif led a big procession from the airport to Regal Chowk in Karachi.

In a dramatic move, the Sindh government lifted Section 144 and the ban it had imposed on the opposition's entry into the province hours before his arrival in the Sindh metropolis. Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif reached Karachi airport at 1315 to a rousing welcome by a big crowd.

Flanked by his coalition partners, ANP's [Awami National Party] Ajmal Khattak and his MNA Nawaz Khokhar, Nawaz said at Regal Chowk rally: "The Benazir govt cannot resist the magnanimous support of the people for the opposition by the influx of dollars in the country.

"We are not far from the target as the spirit developed in the nation is the same that had created Pakistan. Now the people want to get rid of the government of looters and lotas [political defectors] with the same sprit [as published]. "The campaign will continue till the removal of the government and fresh elections," Nawaz reiterated.

In Islamabad, the PML-N workers bearing green flags also came out on to the streets. Led by Shahid Abbasi, MNA, they moved from Melody to Aabpara Chowk.

The PML-N procession in its stronghold of Rawalpindi turned out to be a poor show of strength. The party's MNA [National Assembly member] from the cantonment area, Ejazul Haq, could only attract a little over a

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

couple of thousands people to the venue of protest at Fawara Chowk. The gathering was also addressed by Raja Zafarul Haq.

However, the son of the late Ziaul Haq defended the poor showing by saying that his party had only invited its hardcore workers to the gathering. The absence of MNA Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, who was leading a rally in Lahore, was conspicuous, otherwise, observers said, more people would have attended the PML-N's meeting.

Sheikh Rashid, however, won the show in the Punjab metropolis when he addressed a big public gathering at Data Darbar.

Speaking in his usual witty style but with fewer of his typical controversial references to Ms Bhutto, Sheikh Rashid concentrated on lambasting Punjab Chief Minister Mian Munzoor Wattoo. He discouraged the crowd from chanting slogans against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Farooq Leghari and made them shout "Wattoo the Qadiani."

The ANP-PML(N) organised reasonably good sized rallies in Peshawar and other parts of the Frontier province. In Peshawar, ANP provincial chief Begum Nasim Wali Khan and PML-N provincial chief organiser Pir Sabir Shah spoke at the protest meeting at Chowk Yadgar and later led the procession which terminated at Shoha Chowk, ANP central general secretary Bashir Matta, provincial general secretary Wali Mohammad Khan, former NWFP Assembly speaker Hidayatullah Chamkani and ex-PML MPA Farid Mufakkar also attended the meeting.

The attendance at the public meeting was reasonable and the participants responded emotionally to the slogans against the government. The ANP activists wore red caps while the Muslim Leaguers were in green caps. PML banners dominated the venue of the meeting.

The local opposition leaders held protest meetings in Dera Ismail Khan, Abbottabad, Swat, Karak, Haripur and Mansehra. PML(N)'s Raja Nadir Pervez, who spoke at Dera Ismail Khan, was the only opposition leader from outside the NWFP [North West Frontier Province] to attend the protest day programmes in the province.

The PML-N and the ANP also organised a rally in Quetta to mark the protest day. Rallies were also held in Muttan, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Kasur, Okara, Chakwal, Shelkupura and other major cities of the Punjab province.

Armed Forces Receive New Antiaircraft Missiles

BK2909134394 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Sep 94 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, (PPI)—Eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan will hand over the first consignment of the new surface-to-air missile to Lieutenant General Jahangir Karamat, chief of the general staff of the Pakistan Army, today. The new antiaircraft missile (Anza MK-1) is the latest type of missile manufactured at Kahuta Research Laboratory being used by the Pakistan Army. It is capable of hitting a target up to seven kilometers away and can attack enemy aircraft from any side at double the speed of sound. It is a very accurate and weatherproof missile and is not inferior to any antiaircraft missile available in the world. The missile will prove very helpful for the air defense of the Pakistani armed forces.

Bank Reports 'Moderate' Growth in Economy

BK2809113394 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] Karachi, Sept 27—While acknowledging the government's efforts to substantially improve the fiscal discipline during 1993-94 when domestic credit expansion showed a marked reduction and the economic growth witnessed a moderate recovery from 2.3 per cent to 4 per cent, the State Bank of Pakistan's [SBP] annual report notes with concern the "stubbornly high" rate of inflation.

"The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) rose by 10.8 per cent, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by 11.2 per cent, GDP deflator by 12.1 per cent and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) by 15 per cent in 1993-94", the SBP annual report for 1993-94 released on Tuesday [27 September], said. "At these levels, the price increases were higher than in 1992-93", it observed.

The report has also noted with satisfaction the narrowing down of the international trade deficit to 1.8 billion dollars in 1993-94 from 3.3 billion dollars in 1992-93. It has also noted the accumulation of foreign exchange reserves but with an observation that "necessary as it was from the balance of payments point of view, becomes responsible for rather excessive money creation.

"The mixed performance of the economy, as reflected in the macro-economic indicators, however, masked to a large extent the policy induced improvement in the underlying financial imbalances of the economy", the annual report noted and suggested "a continuation of prudent macro-economic and introduction of effective measures to insulate economy from adverse natural and external factors would, in due course, accelerate the rate of economic growth upto the potential of the country, bring down inflation to a tolerable level, generate exportable surpluses, ensure export competitiveness and improve the balance of payments."

Explaining the reasons for the economic growth rate remaining at four per cent which is lower than 7 per cent target for 1993-94, the report attributed it to 11.2 per cent decline in cotton output and 6.5 per cent in wheat.

The agricultural output, however increased by (?3.6) per cent in 1993-94 as against a negative growth of 5.3 per cent in 1992-93 mainly because of rise in production of sugarcane, rice and some other commodities.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Manufacturing sector recorded marginal increase to 5.6 per cent in 1993-94 as over 5.4 per cent a year earlier with large scale industry showing growth rate of 4.5 per cent as against 4.2 per cent witnessed earlier.

The report attributed this nominal growth to the continued recessionary trend in textile sector.

One of the encouraging aspects of macro-economic developments noted by the SBP during 1993-94 was the significant increase in the rate of gross national savings from 13.6 of GDP in 1992-93 to 15.4 per cent in 1993-94, with the result that about 77 per cent of gross total investment in 1993-94 was financed by national savings as compared to 66 per cent in the preceding year.

Correspondingly, the current account balance of payments recorded an improvement in its deficit from 6.4 percent of GDP in 1992-93 to 2.9 per cent in 1993-94.

Recalling that the SBP's annual report of 1992-93 had mentioned the fiscal policy as one of the weakest areas of economic management, the current report notes with satisfaction the determined efforts made by the government in 1993-94 to improve fiscal discipline introduction of structural budgetary reforms to enhance revenue elasticity, widen the tax base and plug tax loopholes and in general, to modernise the tax system.

The SBP has noted with appreciation the structural reforms taken by the government which include extension of wealth tax to agricultural holdings, reduction in statutory direct tax rates, rationalisation of concessions and exemptions and adjustments in administered prices, of a number of commodities.

As a result of these measures the budget deficit, which amounted to 8 per cent of GDP in 1992-93, reduced to 5.8 per cent of GDP in 1993-94 mainly because of generation of additional revenue of Rs [rupees] 38.8 billion.

The generation of additional revenue should have improved the revenue/GDP ratio from 18.2 percent in 1992-93 to 18.8 per cent in 1993-94 but the lower imports, slow growth in economy, weakness in tax administration and rigidity of revenue system offset the resource mobilisation efforts causing a decline in the revenue/GDP ratio to 17.9 per cent.

A qualitative change was also visible in the sources of financing the budget deficit during 1993-94 when bank borrowing to support the budget deficit was reduced to 0.8 per cent of GDP as against 1.9 per cent a year earlier.

The report also noted the prudent domestic credit policy of the government through elimination of financing schemes like transport scheme and temporary increase in mark-up rates.

The report has also mentioned four major financial structural reforms of immense importance taken by the government in 1993-94. In February, 1994, the SBP Act was amended to increase the autonomy of central bank, secondly coordination was established between the fiscal, monetary and planning authorities by setting up a Monetary and Fiscal Coordination Board under the SBP Act, thirdly the SBP was put in place a comprehensive macro-economic framework within which it began to determine the safe limits of monetary expansion and credit requirements of private sector and, fourthly, the increased emphasis on consolidation of credit market and improvement in the institutional structure of financial intermediation.

Explaining the reasons for high price increases in 1993-94 over 1992-93, the SBP report attributed to five specific factors. It pointed out the time gap between the application of prudent fiscal and monetary policies and results they created, fallout of excessive monetary expansion in last several years, accumulation of foreign exchange reserves, impact of one time price increase in petroleum and gas, effects of virus attack on cotton crop.

The SBP report is optimistic on 1994-95 economic prospects for which the government has set ambitious growth target of 6.9 per cent, reduction in the inflation to 7 per cent and a further improvement in foreign exchange reserve of 555 million dollars. To achieve these targets, the government has focussed on policies to further reduce the budget deficit to four per cent of GDP in 1994-95 and to contain government borrowing to Rs 15 billion for supporting the budget deficit in current fiscal year.

Maintaining that most of these targets are achievable provided the federal and provincial governments stick to their projections and enforce strict discipline, the report hopes "anticipated increase in investment levels in 1994-95, coupled with an aggressive export promotion drive and pursuit of a realistic exchange policy should help realise the target for non-traditional export."

The report concludes "while it is too early to be definitive, it is hoped that maintenance of fiscal and monetary discipline coupled with recovery in output growth, would begin to ease inflationary pressures in the economy."

Sweden To Provide 1.7 Billion Rupees in 1995

BK2909060594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Sweden will provide 1.7 billion rupees to Pakistan during next year. The amount will be utilized in communication, environment, power and agriculture sectors. The two countries signed an agreement to this effect in Islamabad today after the completion of Pakistan-Sweden annual consultations. Swedish delegation appreciated the economic policy initiatives of the present government. Swedish delegation was led by Mr. (Gunnar Bilkren), director of Swedish Board of Investment and Technical Support, while the joint secretary of Economic Affairs Division headed the Pakistani delegation.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Sri Lanka

Senior Officials To Hold Talks With LTTE 13-14 Oct

BK2909135594 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake told newsmen that the government has named four senior officials for preliminary talks with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Jaffna. This was in response to an LTTE communication to the prime minister. The secretary to the prime minister, (K. Ganapati Mendis); Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Tourism, and Aviation Lionel Fernando; Bank of Ceylon Chairman (Rajan Asitwaren); and Engineer Navin Gunaratne will participate in the talks.

The deputy minister of defense, Anuruddha Ratwatte, in response to several questions raised by newsmen disclosed that the four- member official team will have initial talks with the LTTE cadres on the 13th and 14th of next month. He made it clear that these dates were mutually agreed on by both the parties. He also said that the government's team will initially discuss the modalities of the negotiations and the (?venues) with the LTTE. The defense deputy minister categorically told newsmen that the government's peace (?process) will not be interrupted due to the ongoing incidents in the North and East. He also disclosed the action taken to provide electricity in the Jaffna Peninsula and other welfare measures for the Eastern Province.

Various organizations in the country have focussed on the need to bring the ongoing war to a speedy conclusion. They have stressed the urgent need to stop the carnage and prevent thousands of valuable lives from bring lost and to stop the [word indistinct] from being reduced to refugee status. These organizations have pledged their wholehearted support to the government to bring the war to an end. Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, and Muslim religious and nongovernmental organizations expressed their support to the government. They say that the government loses an income of 30,000 million rupees annually due to its defense expenditure. Thirty- three percent of its foreign assistance are actually allocated for maintaining refugees; 125 refugee camps have been set up in the north and east. Over 13,000 persons are believed to have lost their lives in this war. Of these, 6,000 are security forces personnel [words indistinct]. These organizations have also expressed approval for the action taken by the new government within a short period of a month to resolve the ethnic crisis with the intention of ending the war. Several progressive organizations have united to form an umbrella organization called People United Against War to carry on their relentless campaign.

UNGA Informed About Plans To Resolve Ethnic Problem

BK2909152394 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamer, has expressed the government's determination to pursue a negotiated settlement with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] undeterred by any setbacks. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] in New York, he ruled out a separate Tamil homeland or Eelam as demanded by the militants. He categorically stated that there was no question of an independent Tamil state being created in Sri Lanka. Statements made by the LTTE and messages sent have indicated that they are no longer insisting on a separate state. The government's understanding is that they are prepared to settle for something less, which is broadly (?meant) in the degree of autonomy for the North and East.

Responding to questions at a news conference after he addressed the General Assembly, the minister said the details are yet to be worked out and the government is yet to see in what form the demands are made.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.